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NO 79

পত্রিকার পতক।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে
দ্বারা ৩০ টাকা।
পরিশিষ্ট বাক্য।
আবশ্যক হইলে পত্রিকা
আবশ্যক হইলে পত্রিকা

শ্রীমহোদয়প্রকাশ।

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IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council held on the 13th instant at Simla, the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in the Central Provinces was, on the motion of Mr. Rivaz, taken into consideration and passed.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COURT OF WARDS.

Mr. Chitnavis said:—Instead of recording a silent vote in support of the Bill, I wish to bear testimony to the good work done by the Court of Wards in the Central Provinces. Last year this Council had to consider the question of indebtedness among agriculturists in my province, and this law of landlord and tenant was amended in several particulars with the object of restricting the right of transfer. It remains to be seen how far the recent legislation as regards landlord and tenant will cure the evils which admittedly exist. Past experience, however, shows that the only way to save an encumbered estate is to take it under the protection of the Court of Wards. Many an old family of malguzars or zamindars, has to thank Government and the Court of Wards, for being saved from complete ruin. In several instances the tact and conscientious efforts of the local officers charged with the management of the Court of Wards saved some of the largest estates from great expense. The Bill, as now amended in the Select Committee, leaves very little to which objection could reasonably be taken. This is a piece of legislation which is sure to benefit many in the province, and I echo the sentiments of all well-meaning and intelligent classes of people when I say that no greater blessing than the introduction of such beneficent measures could be conferred upon people by Government. I believe that this Bill will facilitate and further the work of the Court of Wards in the province, and therefore have much pleasure in supporting it.

CUTTING DOWN APPEALS IN THE PUNJAB COURTS.

Mr. Rivaz moved that the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Punjab Courts Act be taken into consideration; and the Bill as amended was passed.

Mr. Justice Chatterjee delivered an interesting speech in this connection, expressing the opinion that its result would be to cut down appeals to the Chief Court very materially, probably by one half. Mr. Justice Chatterjee also took occasion to urge the revision of the Code of Civil Procedure, which is, he thinks, too technical, especially for a Province like the Punjab.

Pandit Suraj Kaul, in a speech on the measure strongly approved its principle and objects, remarking that he felt sure it would discourage unreasonable litigation.

AMENDMENT OF THE ASSAM IMMIGRATION LAW.

Mr. Rivaz, in moving for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the Assam immigration law, traced the history of the legislative efforts to bring the abuses in connection with recruitment under control, and showed where they had failed. There is overwhelming evidence, he said, that under the guise of free emigration from the districts which supply labour for Assam, an organised system of recruiting has sprung up which is not distinguishable from the professional recruiting recognised and licensed and controlled by the Act, save that it is entirely free from control, and that it resorts with impunity to fraud, kidnapping, abduction of women and other malpractices. The existing law provides an elaborate machinery for the protection of the labourer and for controlling the recruiter in recruiting districts; but the Act is so worded as to authorise any other unlicensed and uncontrolled form of recruiting which the ingenuity of labour purveyors can devise. This is what is called the free emigration system and it is this system that has given rise to the abuses which it is now proposed to put down. The genuine free emigrant who pays his way to Assam and goes there as a free agent to look for work is obviously a person to be encouraged, but he is seldom met with. The bulk of the labourers who proceed to Assam outside the precautions and safeguards of the Act are recruited and conveyed there by unlicensed recruiters and contractors and by garden sardars with the express object of being put under a penal contract on arrival in labour districts. When a labour district is reached the emigrant is far from home and amid unfamiliar surroundings and has practically no option but to accept the contract he is called upon to sign. The only powers of control that the Government have over free emigrants are those conferred by Bengal Council Act I of 1889, which enables the Bengal Government to prescribe rules by which emigrants are to travel and to lay down rules for sanitary inspection and supervision over depots and rest-houses where they may stay on their way to Assam. But that Act is not in force in the Central Provinces or elsewhere outside of Lower Bengal. The Act of 1882 has allowed recruitment to be carried on outside its provisions in the hope that through the stage of assisted emigration the goal of genuinely free emigration would be reached. But that hope has not been realised. The Bill, now introduced, firstly, empowers Local Governments to prohibit all persons from recruiting or engaging or assisting any native of India to emigrate otherwise than in accordance to the provisions of the Act. When such a notification issues, the unlicensed and uncontrolled system of free recruiting will become punishable as a criminal offence. Secondly, emigrants must be registered, if not in the actual district of recruitment, at least in some central place near such district. The special procedure by which a labour contract can be entered into by a so-called free emigrant at Dhubri will be abolished. Thirdly, an interval of three days is provided between the registration of intending emigrants and the execution of contracts by them. Fourthly, additional provision is made for the repatriation of labourers enticed away by fraud or forced away by violence. Fifthly, the execution of a contract by a woman without the consent of her husband or lawful guardian is forbidden. Sixthly, the medical examination of intending emigrants in recruiting districts is made compulsory in case of contractors' coolies and optional in the case of sardars' recruits. There are other changes, one of which raises the minimum wage of the coolie from Rs 5 in case of a man and Rs 4 in case of a woman to Rs 6 and Rs 5, respectively. All the amendments proposed have, Mr. Rivaz said, been accepted as necessary and adequate by

all the Local Governments concerned, and the Indian Tea Association has also expressed approval of the principal amendments. Concluding Mr. Rivaz said: It has always been the desire and policy of the Government of India to dispense with all special legislation relating to the recruitment of labour for Assam. We still adhere to that policy. We hope that some time after communication to Assam by rail is opened up by the completion of the Assam Bengal Railway, it may be possible to do away altogether with the system of penal contracts, or at least to make substantial changes in the Assam labour system in the direction of abolishing such contracts. For the present it is necessary to maintain the system, and while it is maintained we trust that the changes now proposed will have the effect of stopping the abuses in recruitment, while cheapening the cost of importing labour to tea districts.

At the same time a Bill was introduced to convert Bengal Act I of 1889 relative to sanitary control over the arrangements for free emigrants en route to Assam into an Act of the Government of India and to extend it to the Central and North-Western Provinces and any other Provinces from which labourers may in future be recruited.

At the close, His Excellency the President announced that the last meeting of the Council this season in Simla will be held on the 20th instant.

INDISPENSABLE INSECTS.

INSECTS—nasty, creepy-crawly beasts. Much better if there were no such things. That's the general idea of most people, particularly in summer, when the fly by day and the mosquito by night make life a misery. Then too, there is always a chance of a vicious sting from the ever present wasp or of an earwig or spider crawling down one's neck.

But think a moment, and it may occur to you that not only are insects not all useless, but that there are some we simply could not do without. Honey is probably the first insect product that you will think of. Well, honey we might dispense with, but bees-wax we should miss severely. Silk will most likely come next in your mind. France alone sends about 150,000 worth of silk tissues in a year, let alone what is imported from China and other countries. So you must acknowledge that the silkworm is an insect the world could not easily dispense with.

The very ink I write with owes its origin in part to an insect. The amount of tannic acid in woody oak-galls—oak-apples we generally call them—makes them most valuable to the ink and dye maker. These oak-galls, if you examine them, each contain a small, hollow pea-shaped cell, in which lives the insect that causes them. There are many flies of the gall-insect species. They all work alike, but a queer fact is that the galls they produce differ entirely in shape in different plants. Cochineal every one knows, is purely an insect product. It is made from the coccus cacti, which lives on the prickly cactus leaf. Over 4,000 cwt. a year are imported into Great Britain.

Many savages would be badly off indeed could they not recruit their larders from insect life. The Arab and the Hottentot quite fail to understand our dislike of locusts. And why should we laugh, when we eat shrimps and winkles? The palm grub is a most tasty morsel, according to the Philippine Islanders. In South America the Prius Cervicorus, found in decaying wood, is relished by whites as well as Indians. So too, the larva of the big horned beetle, a native of Uganda.

German peasants make soup of the Maybug, or cockchafer. In Sweden ants are added to brandy, and greatly improve its flavour. Termites, the so-called white ant of tropical Africa and Australia form a large portion of the food of great numbers of natives. When they swarm, these insects settle in millions in shallow waters, and are then easily fished up and broiled in earthen pots. They are said to possess, like locusts, a rich, nutty, flavour. Then, too, we must remember that without insects, bird-life would become extinct. For though all birds do not eat insects, the birds of prey live chiefly on those that do. Fish life would disappear in fresh waters. And finally worst of all, there being no insects left to fertilise the blossoms, wild and garden vegetable life would gradually disappear and with it, of course, everything that lives and breathes. For, all depend for food, directly or indirectly, on the vegetable world.

WHAT WAR SPIES LEARN.

THERE is no profession more hazardous than that of the military spy. True, his life cannot be said to be in such peril as the workers in factories where explosives are manufactured; but, on the other hand, it is always possible that a slight blunder committed by him may plunge two mighty nations into a long and sanguinary war and thus he practically carries the responsibility of the fate of the nation he is working for on his shoulders.

Probably Germany has most spies at work in foreign countries, and we may at once say that the German spy cannot be beaten for his thoroughness: it has been proved over and over again especially in the Franco-German War of 1870 when France quickly learnt that the German generals thanks to their spies knew French topography better than the French officers themselves. Germany has spies in all parts of France at the present time learning both the weak and strong points of the whole country.

German spies are scattered all over Europe in fact. It was a German spy who actually penetrated into the invulnerable Kronstadt the boast of Russia and worked so wonderfully that he was able to send his Government not only a plan of each fort but plants of the position of every gun mounted, and full details as to the working of very many of them.

This was a most wonderfully daring and clever bit of work as is shown by the fact that the Russian officials so implicitly believe that no foreign spy could penetrate Kronstadt that they refuse to believe it has ever been done, although their own spies have repeatedly told them that Germany possesses all the plans of their wonderful fortress.

We Britons love to think of our natural fort at Gibraltar; the mere mention of it makes us exclaim, "Ah, that will want some breaking up!" Granted, but both Germany and Russia know precisely how much to fear "Gib," and have fairly accurate plans of the fortress of which well-to do boast. The number of cannon they both know well, and the War Minister of Germany could tell you how many cannon we have at the "Rock" which would be useless in action and how many would do real damage,

far better than many of our own officials; at least, we can only believe so from the fact that the guns at "Gib" sadly need looking to. Germany well knows that Spain knows it also excellently well.

In the case of Germany it was a young lady who supplied the plans of Gibraltar, and she was acting on behalf of her husband, who was, and we believe still is, one of the chief of German military spies; and it was only through the indiscretion of one of our younger officials stationed at the "Rock" at the time that this lady, spy was so successful in her mission. She was very beautiful and charming, and, thanks to her personality, inspired implicit faith in the young officer's mind, so that she had no difficulty in persuading him, not only to take her over the fortress but to explain to her the workings of most of our guns.

In this way she was able to supply her husband with wonderfully accurate details of the "cut" of the fortress, the number and character of the guns, the ammunition stored, and the usual strength of the garrison. Happily, however, owing to the peculiar nature of the "Rock," it is questionable whether these plans put Gibraltar in any danger from Germany for the reason that it would not fall an easy capture even if it were barren of guns; and about the most Germany can boast of in this connection is that she knows what danger she would run if she attempted to force the Straits at any time.

Still this lady's feet was a very considerable one, and must have been carried but with wonderful tact and skill for her to have escaped suspicion until her work was practically complete.

French spies have made repeated attempts to discover the secrets of Gibraltar, but have never been, so far as is known very successful. A French lady recently staying with friends on the "Rock," demonstrated so much interest in the mysteries of the place, that the suspicions of the officers were aroused, and after a time a request was forwarded to her friends that she should be asked to leave. This request was acceded to, and there is still grave doubt as to how much she learnt ere she took her departure.

France has been very active in her attention to Great Britain of recent years, and it is surprising to us how our Government can remain so indifferent to the fact. It was a French spy who was the first to notice the weakest spot in our coast defences, to wit the Bristol Channel. Suspicion was aroused concerning the movements of an interested stranger who was constantly to be seen at the different points down the Channel, and detectives were employed to watch him. But so badly was their work done that they aroused "suspicions of the suspected who immediately went off to his native home. Then, when came to look round to see what the stranger might have learnt for his country, we realized for the first time that the Bristol Channel was practically without defences.

The "Sick Man" of Turkey has the greatest faith in the defences of the Dardanelles, and certainly an enemy unacquainted with the character of the forts which abound there would find it no easy task to force a passage either to or from the Sea of Marmora. But the Sultan's sense of security is, perhaps scarcely justified, considering that Russia, France, Germany, and Great Britain are all fairly well acquainted with the defences of the Dardanelles, and certainly know enough to convince them they are not nearly so strong as the Sultan has been led to believe.

Large sums of money which have been disbursed to strengthen these defences have only left the Treasury to fall into the pockets of the officers who were commissioned to see the works carried out. Russia particularly know this, and it is quite possible that Russian spies are in some degree responsible for it, for to no nation is the weakness or strength of the Dardanelles of so much importance as Russia, whose one chance of prosperity is, not universal peace, but in moving south, which can only be done by the conquest and acquisition of the Sultan's kingdom.

Ever since the Crimean War, when Russia was thwarted in her southward move by the allied forces of Great Britain and France, the spies of the great White Czar have been engaged in discovering all the secrets of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles defences, a not very difficult matter considering the corruptibility of the unpaid Turkish officers. The crisis arising from the American affairs led Great Britain also to pay attention to these defences.

France and Germany, who are interested in the maintenance of the integrity of the Turkish Empire have also, spies at work along the Dardanelles, as it is necessary for them to be as well versed in these matters as Russia to be able to successfully thwart any attempt on the latter's part upon Turkey.

Thus, whenever there is a weak or a strong point in a country's defences there are foreign spies at work discovering the strength or weakness of that point, and only war can show how much these spies for war in times of peace have been able to discover. But there can be no doubt that the Government which knows most of the secrets of other European countries in the Government of Germany.

DANGEROUS AGE IN MATRIMONY.

THE most dangerous age for a bachelor is under 26½, to be accurate, 26½, as the registrar-general dryly puts it in his statistical return just issued, says the St. Louis Republic. The most joyous and delightful age for a woman is something over 24½—24½. That is to say, that it was at those precise ages that the average bachelor of last year and the average maid became one.

The bachelor, however, grows more wary year by year. He was older in 1898 than in 1897, when he fell into the toils. The average bachelor was married in 1897 at 26½ years of age, quite "old" less. The girl, too, has to wait longer now than she used to. She was 25 of a year younger in 1897 when she became a wife than in 1898. As for the people who marry as minors, they are rapidly becoming a vanishing number, among men at least eighty-four out of every 1,000 husbands in 1874 were married under the age of 21, and so were 227 out of every 1,000 women. The boy husbands have come down to fifty-one per 1,000 now; the girl wives have dropped to 270 per 1,000. There have not been so few boy and girl marriages at any time since 1851.

Of the total marriages in 1898 42,751 persons were minors. Of these there were 2 girls 14 years; 10, 15; 158, 16; five boys, 16; 61 boys 17; 1, 196 girls, 17, and 3,303 boys and 6,294

girls, 18; over 18 the girl wives run into tens of thousands, and actually nearly 19,000 youths of 20 were married.

There has been a decided slump in widowers and widows of late. In 1871, 138 husbands and 100 wives in every 1,000 were widowers and widows respectively. Things have changed since then; there were but ninety-eight widowers and sixty-nine widows in every 1,000 marriages in 1898. The widower, by the way, is obviously more dangerous to the susceptible heart of the opposite sex than the widow. It is to be noted, however, that when the widow selects a bachelor as a husband she takes a man nearly two years her junior; when she chooses a widower her husband is nearly five years older than herself.

THE ORANGE FREE STATE.

THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE.

THE territory of the Orange Free State says the *Daily Telegraph*, is a great tableland, with an average altitude of between 4,000 and 5,000 feet above sea-level. It has the Orange River as its southern frontier, the Vaal River dividing it on the north from the Transvaal or South African Republic, while Natal and Basutoland (guarded by the precipitous cliffs of the Drakensberg chain of mountains and the Alpine ranges, which have given to Basutoland the name of "the Switzerland of South Africa") mark its eastern boundaries, and the "trackless plains" of the northern part of Cape Colony and Griqualand West form its limits on the west. The country is a compact oblong, extending about 400 miles from north to south and 200 miles from east to west and having an area variously computed at from 50,000 to 72,000 square miles. Early in the century emigrant farmers from Cape Colony crossed the Orange River in search of better grazing-grounds, to which they could annually move their flocks. Some of these became permanent settlers, and their numbers were augmented in 1835 by bodies of Boers, who purposely emigrated North to free themselves from Colonial rule. Quarrels with the natives quickly ensued, followed by appeals for protection by the Griquas to the Colonial Government, with whom they had treaty alliances, and this led, in 1848, to a proclamation by Sir Harry Smith, the Cape Governor, annexing the territory to Great Britain. The Imperial authority, however, was not established without bloodshed, and our Colonial policy at that period being greatly governed by expediency, it was resolved in 1853 to abandon the "Orange River British Sovereignty" on the best terms obtainable for such of the inhabitants as had settled there under Imperial assurances. Sir George Clerk, the Special Commissioner, accordingly signed a Convention in February, 1854, transferring the government to a body of Boer delegates, and the Orange Free State thereupon took its place among the independent Powers of the world.

The supreme legislative body is the Volksraad, or Chamber of Representatives. This is composed of sixty members, one for each chief town of a district, and one for each field cornetcy, elected for four years by enfranchised burghers. One-half the members retire every two years. The president is elected for five years by all burghers entitled to vote and is chairman, *ex-officio*, of the Executive Council, his colleagues being the State Secretary, the Landrost (or magistrate) of the capital, and three unofficial members nominated by the Volksraad. Subject to the ratification by the Volksraad of all acts done or appointments made, the president and executive discharge the whole duties and functions of Government, including the declaration of war or the making of peace. Public revenue for the year 1897, was £402,229, and the expenditure £381,588. There is, practically, no State indebtedness, for though, nominally, the public debt stands at between £40,000 and £50,000, the finances of the Republic would allow of its being paid off in full; and that course would unquestionably be pursued, were it not that the debt takes the form of debentures carrying interest at 6 per cent, and irredeemable for the period of nearly twenty years. Prior to the Volksraad session of last year, electoral rights were exercised by three classes of whites—first, those born in the State; secondly, residents in the State for one year holding £150 worth of immovable property; and thirdly, residents for three successive years; but certificates of burghership had to be obtained from the President in each of the two latter classes. Now, in addition, Uitlanders desirous of obtaining the franchise are compelled to become naturalised, and renounce former allegiance. All citizens between the ages of sixteen and sixty are liable to be called out for military service.

With regard to the population of the Orange Free State, the latest census return is that of 1890, which was admittedly imperfect, and which since then has been subject to considerable augmentation in consequence of the immigration of Uitlanders into the one or two districts lying in the northern and western parts of the Republic, where there have been repeated discoveries of gold and coal. The census of nine years ago, however, gave the white population at 77,716 (of which 51,900 were naturalised as belonging to the Orange Free State) and the native races at 129,787. Only 17,381 of the whole were burghers—that is, white males between the ages of sixteen and sixty. Bloemfontein, the capital of the State, is a pleasant, well-built, well-governed, and prosperous little town with a white population, in 1892, of 3,115; and other centres of trade are Harrismith, Kroonstad, Heilbron, Frankfort, Vrede, Winburg, Bethulie, Fauresmith, Philippolis, and Bethlehem. There are, however, practically no manufactures carried on, most of the country being adapted for stock-raising, to which the attention of the settlers is mainly directed. According to the census returns of 1890 there were then in the Free State 248,878 horses, 19,782 donkeys and mules, 895,099 cattle, 703,381 Cape sheep, 5,916,611 merino sheep, 858,155 goats, 34,787 pigs, and 1,461 ostriches. Among the products for 1890 were 1,308,207 bushels of grain, 29,549 bales of wool, and 384,000 hides. In the south-eastern districts wheat-growing is being extensively cultivated, and orchards and vineyards are greatly on the increase. As nearly one-third of the entire annual revenue is directed to public works, the condition of the roads and bridges is generally very good. The civil administration is provided for by the division of the State into nineteen districts, each presided over by a magistrate, with sub-district courts, in which resident justices of the

peace exercise a more limited jurisdiction. Appeals are heard by the High Court, in which sits the Chief Justice, assisted by two puisne judges; and there are also Circuit Courts for the disposal of civil and criminal cases before a judge, and a jury of nine.

BIGBROWN TROUT.

A BROWN trout weighing 10½ lb. has been caught by Mr. A. Savage, a well-known north-country angler, while fishing at the meeting of the waters of the Wyre and Brook, in North Lancashire. This magnificent fish was 33 in. long, 15 in. at the girth, and 6½ in. at thin end of tail. It was in splendid condition.

THE RAILWAY CONFERENCE.

The following are the decisions arrived at by the sub-committee of the recent Railway Conference in connection with the letter from Dr. Grierson, on the subject of insurance of passengers' luggage and the sealing of each package at the time of working. It was decided to represent to the Conference that Mr. Grierson was apparently under a misapprehension as to the liability of railways in respect of ordinary passengers' luggage, because under the provisions of the Indian Railways Act of 1890, all railways are accountable for luggage booked in their charge, except specified articles enumerated in schedule 11, which include jewellery, trinkets and precious stones; and, therefore, so far as ordinary luggage is concerned, the liability imposed upon railways renders insurance unnecessary. In regard to jewellery, etc., when the value of such articles exceeds Rs. 100, they must be declared by the sender, the insurance rate paid and accepted by some person duly authorised to receive the same on behalf of the railways, but will be accepted. Railways must protect themselves by arrangements best adapted to secure the safe custody of articles and jewellery insured for a sum exceeding one thousand rupees, and for this reason power to accept insurance over that amount is only given to a responsible officer, it being considered that it cannot be given to station masters at the several stations. This arrangement is not found to cause unnecessary trouble in respect to many insured packages of specie and other valuables constantly sent by railway by native merchants and others, while the same rules which are enforced for them must be applied in all cases, in which insurance is claimed. The suggestion of passengers' luggage to be sealed at the time of booking is not considered practicable, and railways might reasonably expect owners to properly secure before booking packages containing a variety of articles. The process of sealing every package at the time of booking would occupy much time and be impossible at the principal stations where large quantities of luggage have to be dealt with for through train services. Valuable articles such as jewellery and decorations, etc. ought not to be placed as ordinary packages and luggage, but should be separately packed, and the package may be sealed by the owner, who can either take it in his own charge or insure it to accompany them as luggage, under the ruling laid down by railways, or forward the package as a parcel insured; and if the latter course is adopted, there can be no difficulty in making a timely application for insurance to railway authorities.

It is understood that the Viceroy, in view of his going to Bombay and Poona and other plague-stricken centres, has been inoculated.

THE North-West Provinces Government have applied for the sanction of fifty thousand rupees for the reconstruction of the Muktesar Laboratory.

AN accident occurred on the Indian Midland Railway at Bhopal on Thursday, a goods train while going on to a siding being derailed. One man was killed.

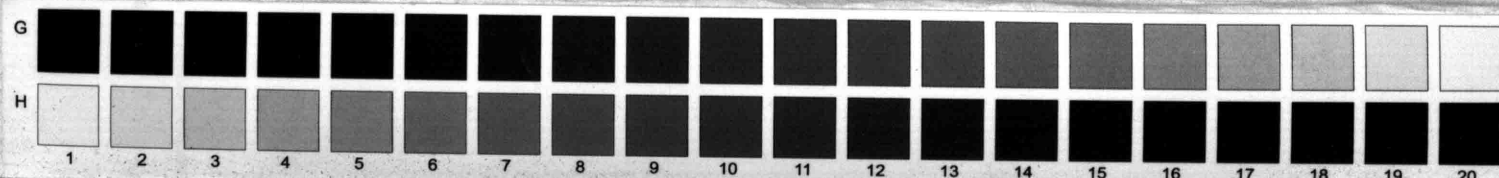
THE gold imports into India between the 1st April and the 31st August amounted to 394,850 ounces, the value coming to a little over two and a half crores of rupees.

IN view of the great scarcity of fodder in Jodhpore, the Viceroy has offered to move one Cavalry Regiment of the Jodhpore Imperial Service troops at the expense of the Government of India, to the British lines at Muttra vacated by the 9th Lancers, and to maintain them there while the dearth lasts.

A MEETING was held at the Hemabhai Institute on Saturday evening to consider Mrs. Lely's proposals to send starving cattle to the Thanna grazing-grounds. Mr. Gibbs, the Collector, presided. It was resolved, unanimously, to raise one lakh of rupees to export ten thousand cattle, and get them back next June, the sum to be recovered afterwards from the owners, and to be divided, *pro rata*, among the subscribers.

A SAVAGE assault was committed on Assistant Surgeon Hailey at Umballa on Friday last. While he was asleep in his bungalow, his assailant came in upon him in the dark and inflicted several wounds. He is cut badly on the left cheek, and the left hand is nearly chopped off. He was evidently rendered unconscious by the first blow as he awoke to find himself severely injured. The medical officers are of opinion that the wounds on the arm were sustained in warding off blows from his head but the injured man is unable to give any account of how he was assaulted. It is believed the weapon used was his own sword which was stolen from his quarters during the night. The hospital *this* is suspected.

THE Sultan of Turkey has been much occupied of late, the correspondent of the *Standard* at Constantinople says, with the question of the future government of Arabia. I understand that, as a result of the deliberations at the Palace, it has been practically decided to establish a Viceroyalty or Khedivate there on the same lines as that of Egypt. The district of Yemen is to be divided into three vilayets, with Hiszen Pasha who enjoys the esteem and full confidence of the Sultan as Governor-General, with the right of choosing his personal Staff, though subject, of course, to the approval of the Sublime Porte. The military commander in the district will be under the immediate orders of the Governor-General, and, as a result, Abdullah Pasha, who is very unpopular in consequence of the excesses committed by the troops under his charge, and which created the greatest animosity against him in the minds of the inhabitants, will probably be recalled.



THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, OCTOBER 19, 1899.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

At the instance of Russia, only the other day, a Conference of European Powers was held to abolish war from the face of the earth is the immediate result of this Peace Conference the fight between the English and the Boers? It is true that the Transvaal is in Africa, but it is as much a European State as any in Europe. We do not blame England at all; for, all the members of the Peace Conference would have acted in a similar manner under the same circumstances. This war only proves the hollowness of the so-called civilization of the West. The result of this civilization is, that the whole of Europe is a military camp. The one object of every Power in that continent is to put down its neighbour or protect itself from its attack. Its other object is to conquer weaker nations in Asia and Africa, and beggar them in the name of civilization.

The position of England is specially peculiar. Other nations may devote a portion of their energies to the advancement of science and art; but the sun never sets in the Empire owned by the English. Their whole energies are thus taken up by war, diplomacy and the devising of means to maintain their superiority as a military power. If an island in the remotest corner of the world is occupied by a rival nation, England feels that her rights have been interfered with. If two nations are fighting, England is sure to be there. In the American-Spanish War, if the English could not interfere, it was because America did not require their proffered help. Whenever there is any commotion, England must either encourage or stop it.

This is the position which England has selected for herself. Unfortunately she has to sacrifice her best men for diplomacy and war, which is a loss to humanity. Mr. Gladstone was perhaps the most intellectual man living in the present century. But has he left anything valuable behind him? If not, why? Because he had to devote his talent solely to war and diplomacy. Lord Salisbury, in his younger days, was passionately fond of chemistry. With his brains, if left to continue his favourite pursuit, he might have left some fragrant legacy to his fellow beings. But he was forced to take up war and diplomacy, for his country would have nothing else. Said Nelson: "England expects every man to do his duty." And what is that duty? It is to fight!

We fear, however, England has secured very little solid gain by playing the role of the empire-builder, the mistress of the ocean, the arbiter of the destinies of nations and so forth. With one-third of the globe in possession, how is it that England is not richer than America which did not possess an inch of foreign territory only a year ago? How is it that the Jews, who are a despised race, are wealthier in London than the Londoners themselves? It is not established that England has benefited herself substantially in material prosperity by building empires, ruling the waves and giving law to the nations. On the other hand, war and diplomacy which have now engrossed the entire attention of England, are deterring that country from glorious achievements in other fields, more advantageous and less objectionable. Naturally generous, noble and lover of fair play and justice, the empire-building and the empire-holding proclivities, which nourish inferior faculties, should never find a place in the hearts of Englishmen.

As regards the Boer war, there is no doubt of it that it has been declared against the wishes of a very large section of Englishmen, both Liberal and Conservative. It is the work of Mr. Chamberlain backed by a body of English adventurers. In his powerful appeal to Lord Salisbury, Mr. Frederick Harrison thus describes the true situation:—

A majority of Englishmen, I assert, know in their hearts that this war would be unjust, even if too many of them knowing that, desire it to go on, notwithstanding its injustice. It is not true, however loudly it is repeated, that the great majority of Englishmen do seek to push the war to the end. Noisy, arrogant and trading groups of men organised and intriguing for their own ends, are doing this. But they are not the nation. On all sides there are quiet protests being raised against it by men of all parties and of all interests outside those interests which are playing their own game. The same quiet, but convinced, reluctance is to be heard from sensible and honest Conservatives.

Mr. Harrison goes on to say:—

We have had evidence quite lately of the follies and crimes which those who seek to crush the independence of the Transvaal are able to commit. And within a few years these very men are striving to plunge the Empire into a scandalous and perilous adventure where they may find the profit, whilst we bear the shame and the cost.

Further on we find Mr. Harrison thus addressing Lord Salisbury:—

Measured by the compromise with foreign nations which you may justly claim to have brought to a successful issue, the concessions already accepted by the Transvaal Republic are indeed decisive. From nine years to seven years, from seven to five years, from one demand of the Uitlanders to another, the Boers have given way. They have already conceded the whole of the original demand made on them and have even added more. And, at every fresh concession, Sir Alfred Milner is instructed to make further demands, until throughout the Transvaal, and we may well add at home, the impression prevails that it is not concession of claims which is sought from the Republic, but submission, humiliation and loss of independence. Is this how negotiations have been carried on, when you, my lord, as head of the Foreign Office, have dealt with Russia, Turkey, France, or the United States? This is not negotiation. It is war—war of naked aggression—war wherein the Boers will not yield without a desperate struggle and after bloody combats—a war which cannot be closed by a few victories nor the traces of it wiped out by a few promises and proclamations—a war wherein many true and patriotic Englishmen devoutly trust that the Boers may not be ultimately crushed.

The implacable and relentless character of the war may be judged from the following telegram which President Kruger has sent to New York:—

President Kruger, in telegraphing to sympathisers with the Transvaal at New York, says that the two Republics are determined that, if they must belong to England, the price which will have to be paid will stagger humanity.

What Kruger means is that the Boers will shed their best blood in defence of their home and hearth, and will not yield till the vast majority of them are massacred. No

nation is more chivalrous than the English, and they cannot but be deeply touched by such a declaration from an old gentleman whose love for his country is proverbial, who has not a drop of humbug in him, and about whose honesty and sincere piety there is no doubt. What an unhappy position for two Christian peoples! As followers of Jesus Christ they should embrace one another as brethren and not cut one another's throats as enemies. The fate of the two little Republics is, however, a foregone conclusion. When they will be brought down, England will then find another opportunity of showing her generosity towards her vanquished foes.

Every loyal subject of the Queen-Empress should now pray to Heaven that this war may not lead to international complications, yet unperceived and bring about a universal conflagration. The European Powers, one and all, hate England for her might and prosperity, and any of them, simply to spite her, may place difficulties in her way. As regards India, she is directly interested in this war. For, if the war is protracted, this poor country may be made to contribute its mite towards its expenses. Then again, a vast portion of India is threatened with another famine. Plague is also raging in many parts of the country. India may thus be sorely in need of pecuniary help from the ruling country. India has also its pressing grievances to be brought before the English public. But they in England are wholly absorbed with the Boer war and they have neither time nor inclination to think of Indian questions just now.

AN INDIAN PARTY IN ENGLAND.

THE story, which our London correspondent tells us, as to how Mr. Caine was converted, has a lesson for us. Mr. Caine, like other European and American tourists, came to see sights in India. During his first visit he came across only Europeans residing here, but he had no conversation with a native of the country. How his European hosts or acquaintances in India described the Indians to him, he does not say. But when tourists come out here they go back, as a rule, with a very bad opinion of the people of this country, instilled into their minds by their Anglo-Indian hosts. That is a part and parcel of Anglo-Indian politics, viz., to malign the Indian character. Of course, there are Oldhams and Tremearns. But we must tell the truth; and the truth is that, not only Anglo-Indians generally, but also Christian missionaries have all along sought to present the Hindu before the world, painted in the blackest of colours.

Only recently we came across a paragraph in an American paper describing how the Gengalis have gone mad over the passion of racing, and how they are ruining themselves by betting and how the Government is making gigantic efforts to stop the vice! But the Indians have been accused of much worse offences than betting. Indians have, times out of number, been grossly misrepresented by their Anglo-Indian fellow-subjects. Just see how Kipling has described them. The white men are all angels; and the Indians, whom he calls natives, are all half-child, half-devil. Mr. Kipling's writings are likely to endure for ever and his libels against the Indians, like the libel of Macaulay, may also endure as long as the English language exists. Elsewhere will, however, be found an extract showing how Mr. Kipling's works have been ostracized from American Sunday Schools.

But this is digression. Possibly Mr. Caine would have gone back from India impressed with the idea that they, the Indians, were a bad lot, and possibly he would have laughed at the Congress programme if presented to him. But how was he converted? During the whole time, says he, "I never had five minutes' conversation with a native of India except hotel servants and box-wallas. At Bombay, however, two gentlemen, perfect strangers to whom I had no introductions, called on me at my hotel. They were Mr. Wacha and Mr. Buderuddin Tyabjee." Mr. Caine continues:—

I was delighted to see them, found them charming companions; they quickly interested me in Congress matters of which I had never heard and introduced me next day to the Bombay Presidency Association. The result was to present to me, as a Liberal politician, a view of progressive India and its possibilities such as I had never dreamt of before, and to lead me to come out to India again the following winter to spend four months in studying Indian politics, attending the Indian National Congress with which I have been connected actively ever since, returning to India again and again.

Every Indian must admit, that Mr. Caine is an invaluable acquisition, and that we owe this invaluable acquisition to a chance inspiration of Messrs. Wacha and Tyabjee! But it ought to be a duty to us, Indians, to fish for friends amongst Englishmen, for we are in need of friends and help.

Mr. Bradlaugh was known in India; he was known as a fearless and uncompromising champion of the weak and the aggrieved. We wrote to Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee who was then in London to see if he could enlist the sympathies of that powerful man. Mr. Bonnerjee hesitated, but eventually he, however, saw Mr. Bradlaugh, and tried to move him. After much persuasion the latter agreed to serve India. Mr. Digby was then requested to coach him, and Mr. Bradlaugh became a thorough master of Indian politics. To him we owe the expansion of our Councils, and but for Mr. Gladstone that measure would have been a real boon to India. Mr. Gladstone, however, spoiled everything. If unfortunately Mr. Bradlaugh had not died, today Lord George Hamilton could not have ruled this country in the way he is doing now, and the support given to him by Sir H. Fowler would have counted for very little.

It comes to this, then, that to save India you must increase the number of Caines and discover other Bradlaughs. Whenever a tourist comes here, we should try to enlist his sympathies, and we should do more. We should devote our whole energies to the accomplishment of one great object, namely, the creation of a powerful party in England pledged to protect India. We can do that easily if we but try. We can do that by posting a couple of able men in that country, that is to say, by spending, say, about Rs. 5,000 per annum, or less.

THE BHOWANIPUR STATION-MASTER'S CASE.

IF Lord Curzon has really taken up the reform of the police department in his hands, and if His Excellency succeeds in improving the morale of the force, he will lay the whole nation under eternal obligation. Elsewhere we have noticed how a respectable widow lady was most outrageously handled by the Deputy Inspector of Police, Thanesarwar, and how the District Magistrate, while admitting that the police officer's treatment of the complainant was brutal, dismissed her application to prosecute the Deputy Inspector, as, in his opinion, it was no offence on the part of a policeman to call a respectable woman unchaste and put his hand over her stomach to see if she was with child! Indeed, it is always the conduct of a District Magistrate which makes a good or a bad police officer. As the head of the police, the District officer should be held legally responsible for its shortcomings. If he were to take severe notice of the misdeeds of the police as soon as they were brought to his notice, half the police oppressions, even under the present arrangement, would disappear from the country in a short time. But why should the police officer mend his ways if the District Magistrate would see nothing wrong in his action, even when he subjected an innocent lady to an indignity which was more than death to her.

Here we shall relate a story of police oppression which reads more like a romance than a reality. What is more, it is not in the benighted Punjab or the N.-W. Provinces that the incident happened, but in enlightened Bengal. Our readers are already acquainted with some of the facts of what is known as the Bhowanipur Station-master's case, which was tried the other day by Mr. Pope, Sessions Judge of Dinajpur. But without a connected account of the whole case before him, the reader will not be in a position to realize the fact, how a gentleman's liberty in this country is a myth if he happens to incur the displeasure of a policeman, however inferior the latter's position may be. We shall, however, let Mr. Pope speak for us. Indeed, we publish here the full text of his judgment in the case which, we have no doubt, will be read with intense interest by the public, and which ought to engage the immediate attention of the Government:—

The accused in this case is a man of good position. He is or was the Station-master of Bhowanipur Railway station. He is charged with attempting to kill the Inspector of Police, Ashutosh Sarkar, who came with a warrant to arrest him, by firing off a gun at that officer. He stands further charged, with assaulting that officer, with intent to prevent him from executing the warrant, and also with offering resistance to his lawful apprehension.

The facts alleged on the side of the prosecution are as follow:—

On the 23rd August, in the afternoon, the District Magistrate of Dinajpur gave the Inspector a warrant for the arrest of the accused; and the Inspector started off by train to execute it. He took with him a Head Constable named Satish Ghose (who was in plain clothes) and 5 constables. At Parbatipur he got further reinforcement in the shape of a railway police constable, Sher Ali, a constable of the Parbatipur Thana called Bechan Ali and four chowkidars.

The party reached Bhowanipur at about 10 P.M., and proceeded towards the Station-master's quarters, which are some 20 or 30 yards off (50 *kadamis* it is said) the railway station.

When they had got about half the distance, the Head Constable, Satish, called out, "Station-master, come out, there is a warrant for you arrest!" No reply was made to this, and the party advanced towards the door of the house. When they were quite close to it, a gun was fired apparently at them from a hole in the wall. Upon this, the Inspector retreated leaving men all round the house and went to the station and sent off a telegram to the District Magistrate saying:—"Station-master Ashutosh Mukherjee firing guns at us! Send half-a-dozen armed constables by the next train."

It happened very luckily that two Head Constables of the Parbatipur Thana were at a place called Kalikapur, some 2 miles off Parbatipur, at the time. The Inspector sent off a constable called Amin Singh to fetch them and at dawn they came with two police constables and some 40 or 50 villagers. The Inspector then told them to get some guns from the neighbourhood, and 4 or 5 guns were procured, and shots were fired off apparently to frighten the accused. Finally at 7 A.M., the Inspector again went to the house and summoned the accused to come out. He replied that he was ill and could not come out but on the Inspector's insisting that he should come out, he came out and gave himself up. He had nothing on but his *dhoti*, no shoes or coat or umbrella and in that condition he was marched off on foot with handcuffs on, through mud and water, to the Zemindari cutchery at Habra, which is 2 miles off Parbatipur. There a slight halt was made for refreshments and a buffalo cart was procured in which the accused was taken to Parbatipur, he was put into train and taken to Dinajpur and produced before the District Magistrate, who, apparently without making any inquiry whatever or recording the statement of the Inspector, remanded him to *kajut*. All that the Inspector did on the 24th was to return the warrant with a very brief report on the back of it to the effect that he had surrounded the house of the accused and had called out to him and that the latter had fired a gun at him.

No gun, however, was produced on that day. On the next day, the 25th, the Inspector submitted a report to the Magistrate in which, after narrating the same facts in somewhat more detail, he stated that after arresting the accused in the morning he had ordered Head Constable Sita Nath Banerjee, (one of the two who came from Kalikapur) to seize the gun. The report goes on to say that the "gun has been produced which was found loaded."

The District Magistrate then recorded the statement of the Inspector on oath, and gave order to have the gun fired. It was fired into the ground with the result that a bit of brass was discharged from it.

Such is the case for the prosecution. The accused denies the whole story. He admits, of course, that he was arrested by the Inspector, but denies that he fired the gun and pleads great enmity with one Mathur Babu, the Sub-Inspector of Parbatipur Thana.

Both assessors have found that the case is false and I agree with them.

To begin with, the fact of enmity with Mathur Babu is clearly established.

Satish, who is a Head Constable under Mathur Babu, admits at page 7 of his deposition that the latter had instituted a theft case against the accused, which was reported as a mistake of fact; that Mathur Babu had further made a report to the Inspector of Post Offices charging the accused with having used a postal service cover for his own private use; and thirdly, that Mathur Babu had reported the accused to be a bad character. It is clear then that Mathur Babu had been doing his very best to get the accused into trouble.

And when on top of this we find that the case in which the warrant for the arrest of the accused had been issued was a case of alleged assault by the accused on the same Mathur Babu, it is very easy to see how strong a motive the Parbatipur Police had for getting up a serious charge against the accused.

We find, too, that Satish, one of Mathur's Head Constables, went with the Inspector and not only did he go, but he did everything. The Inspector is an elderly weak-minded man, who has since been degraded for what he calls making contradictory statements. His own deposition shows that he was completely at the mercy of Satish.

It was Satish who called out to the accused; Satish who sent the telegram; Satish who advised the Inspector not to return by goods train; Satish who went back to see if the gun had been fired.

Mathur Babu himself was also in Dinajpur at the time when the Inspector went to execute the warrant.

Then we have the very strange fact, which has come out in this Court only, that the Inspector himself sent for guns, and had them fired off. Why did he do this? And why, having done it, did he not tell the fact to the District Magistrate or to the Deputy Magistrate?

And it turns out that two out of the four or five guns were actually guns belonging to Mathur Babu.

This is an extraordinary coincidence! Mathur Babu himself was not there, it is said, but his guns were.

The explanation given is that he had left them behind at Kalikapur, the place where two other Parbatipur Head Constables happened so fortunately to be. One cannot help having a shrewd suspicion that these guns came with the party from Parbatipur.

Again, we come to the extraordinary fact that leaving aside the Inspector himself and the Railway constable, Sher Ali, we have the evidence of three witnesses only as to the occurrences of the night and morning; and these three are all Parbatipur Police, viz., Satish, Sitanath, and Bechan Ali. Not one of the five constables who came from Dinajpur has been examined; not one of the chowkidars, and not one of the passengers who were at the Bhowanipur Station when the gun was fired, and whose names the Inspector noted down! The constable Amin Singh too, who is said to have gone and called the Head Constables from Kalikapur, has not been called.

All these facts seem to me to show that the Parbatipur Police are at the bottom of the case.

But it may be asked, how are we to disbelieve the statements of the four witnesses who all say that they saw the gun fired off? Why should the Inspector especially be disbelieved? The answer to this is that the whole conduct of the Inspector throughout the proceedings makes it plain that he was gained over by Mathur Babu to try and get the accused into trouble.

There is no reason to begin with why he should have gone with so many people to arrest the Station-master or why he should have gone in the night. These two facts alone strongly show that he did not act *bona fide*.

Again his conduct to the accused after the arrest also shows that he had gone there determined to ill-treat him. The accused is a man of good position; and whether or not he was really ill at that time, it is clear that he said he was ill. There was a goods train due within 15 minutes by which the party might have gone to Parbatipur. The accused offered to pay the fares of the Inspector and of another person if they would take him in the train. But the offer was refused, and the accused was marched off bare-footed and bare-headed, without proper clothes, and with hand-cuffs on, and taken through mud and water for a distance of two miles, to Habra. The Inspector must have known that he was behaving wrongly to treat a respectable man in such a fashion; and it may be presumed that he could not have so behaved without a motive; and what other motive could he have had except to play into the hands of Mathur Babu? Nor is this unlikely, for it is admitted that the Inspector has been degraded for doing a very similar thing, i.e., for making what he calls contradictory statements in the case of one Mazoral Hugg.

Again it is very easy to show that the Inspector is not a man on whose word one can rely. In his first report he said that he called out to the accused. In his second report he does not say anything about anyone calling out to him. To the District Magistrate he said, "I surrounded accused's house and I was about to call out to him, when a gun was suddenly fired off."

He now tells us that it was Satish who called out to the accused.

Neither to the District Magistrate nor to the Deputy Magistrate did he say a word about the other guns being fired off and before the former officer he was silent about the guns being fired in the house of the accused by Head Constable Sita Nath Banerji. On this last point indeed, I have small doubt but he has actually perjured himself for he said to the District Magistrate that, "The Head Constable who was with me produced this gun before me from the house," and that can only refer to the Head Constable, Satish, there being no mention made of any other Head Constable.

Lastly, I would refer to the way in which not only the Inspector, but the two Head Constables have deliberately told a whole series of falsehoods regarding the way in which the gun was fired in the accused's house.

The Police of course knew that the accused had a gun, and equally, of course, the first thing they did was to find it. Yet the Inspector would have us believe that he had not himself looked for it, that he forgot to do so, and only he thought himself of it when he was about to march off to Parbatipur with the accused, that he then sent Sita Nath Banerji to look for the gun; but he himself was too much busy to wait for the result and that Sita Nath Banerji was not able to reach Parbatipur in time to catch the train for Dinajpur that day.

The absurdity of this story is too plain-forward. It only took Sita Nath Banerji a few

minutes to find the gun, and to have the list written out and signed, after which he had ample time to catch up the Inspector and his party long before they reached Parbatipur. Moreover he could have taken the goods train, as the witness Sher Ali did get to Parbatipur long before the Inspector reached there.

Yet inspite of the manifest falsehood of the story we find the three principal witnesses adhering to it.

These facts show that the Inspector is not a witness on whose testimony we can rely.

As to Satish Ghose, I regard him as an unscrupulous man who would say anything. I attach no credence whatever to his statement. Moreover he has grave reasons of his own for trying to get the accused into trouble; for he admits that in July 1st the Station-master had reported him to the Magistrate. There remain only Sher Ali, and Bechan Ali, who are two ignorant constables.

I have no doubt that they have been tutored to tell this story.

Sher Ali had the audacity to say to the Deputy Magistrate that he could tell by the sound of the gun that it was loaded with a bullet! But in this Court he laughed at the idea of being able to tell such a thing! This shows of what value his testimony is.

I therefore entirely disbelieve the witnesses for the prosecution.

Looking at the probabilities of the case, apart from the evidence, it is clear that the story is false.

The accused did not know that the Police were coming to arrest him, why then should he fire a gun!

Of course, it is tried to make out that Satish called out to the accused from a considerable distance from the house. But this is a new story invented for the express purpose of getting over their difficulty, i.e., the difficulty of proving that the accused knew that people were coming to arrest him. Moreover the story bears on itself the mark of its falsehood, for no one would begin to shout out to a man from a distance that they were coming to arrest him; they would walk up to the door, and there inform him of the fact.

Again Satish is forced to admit that in conversation told the Pleader, Madhu Babu, that they had not had time to call the accused before he fired off the gun.

Then comes the very improbable fact that no caps, powder or shot were found in the accused's house!

How then was the gun fired off and how was it found again loaded? It was no doubt this difficulty which led to the delay in producing the gun.

On the whole then, as I have already said, I have not the slightest doubt that the case is entirely and absolutely false, and I earnestly trust that serious notice will be taken of the conduct of the Police.

The court agreeing with the assessors finds no case proved against the accused Ashu Toshi Mukherjee and directs that he be acquitted and discharged.

Sd. R. R. POPE.

5-10-99.

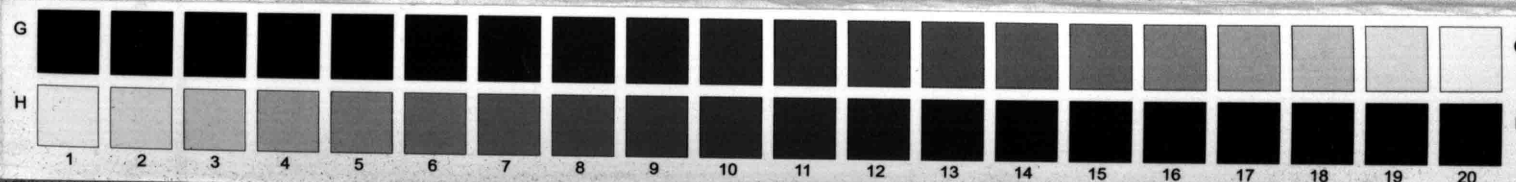
So the Station-master, whom the Sessions Judge calls a respectable gentleman, was not only treated as a ruffian as if he had committed murder, but was saddled with an atrocious and false charge which, if the police could manipulate their evidence a little more cleverly, might have ended in his conviction and proved the ruin of an innocent man. The Sessions Judge has, however, omitted to mention the part played by the District Magistrate of Dinajpur in this connection. He simply contents himself with remarking that, when the Station-master was produced before the District Magistrate hand-cuffed, with no shoes and no coat on, Mr. Garrett, "apparently without making any enquiry whatever or recording the statement of the Inspector, remanded him to *kajut*." This in itself is a serious reflection on the conduct of the District Magistrate, but he is alleged to have done more. Indeed, there are other circumstances which go to show that if the District Magistrate had observed a little ordinary caution, the scandal might have been nipped in the bud.

The Magistrate apparently left the police, who were directly interested in the case, to do whatever they liked. The Station-master was implicated in two other cases through the machinations of the police, and both of these were bailable. When the Station-master, however, wanted to be released on bail, all sorts of obstacles were placed in his way. The Magistrate at last released him on heavy bail, which was, however, reduced by the Sessions Judge.

In short, if Mr. Garrett were vigilant and wide-awake, the police would not have been able to throw dust into his eyes and commit such a frightful oppression. The Government, we are quite sure, will take severe notice of the conduct of the Parbatipur police. But, it should, at the same time, ask an explanation from Mr. Garrett as to how he could allow such atrocity to be perpetrated in his jurisdiction, specially when the police acted under his direct instructions. Mr. Pope deserves public thanks for having unravelled this police conspiracy and saved an innocent man from utter ruin.

THE GRADUAL FALL OF THE INDIANS.

WHEN the Government, after the resignation of the 28 Commissioners, announced an election to fill up the vacancies, we warned the authorities that they were going only to keep up the feeling of unrest. Perhaps the Government had no help in the matter. Anyhow the result of the elections is likely to give another cause of offence to the Government. But it is possible that the actions taken by the ratepayers, to enter a protest, against the new Municipal measure, have given it any cause for offence? Thus, for instance they held meetings. Of course, they did give no offence by that. But when the Commissioners resigned it certainly ruffled the temper of the authorities. Yet we must say that the Government forced the representatives to the step. Did the Government ever expect that the Commissioners after the charges brought against them, would yet remain in office? Then the last elections are likely to give offence, for, there was no Hindu to stand for the seats. But yet some did present themselves, though it is now clear that they were not serious, or if serious, they found that it would be not safe on their part to act against the wishes of the society in which they moved. With the destruction of the elective Municipality of Calcutta, disappears almost all hope of the Indians for the political improvement of their country.



What is to be the next move of the Indians. To hold the National Congress, is it not? But what is the good? The Congress began well, but the Mussalman element was sought to be seduced from it. This did some harm, though not harm enough to cause the demolition of the institution. But the cow-riots accomplished what the mere defection of some of the Mussalman leaders failed to do. For two to three years the rulers, of course with honourable exceptions, enjoyed the spectacle of the Hindus and Mussalmans flying at and cutting one another's throat. When at last it came to be realized that the foolish officials who were encouraging these suicidal internecine quarrels were only raising a Frankenstein—when they found that the spectacle of a Mussalman hitting a European was not so pleasant as that of a Mussalman hitting a Hindu,—they withdrew their hands and there was peace again. Yet we knew that this peace could not be broken at any moment. One act of indiscretion on the part of an official, a Hindu or a Mussalman, and there may be a conflagration. Thus there is no good feeling between the Hindus and Mussalmans yet; and a National Congress requires a perfect amity of feelings between the two important races of India.

Then there is another element, the non-official Anglo-Indian community, from which the Congress expected support, and got some in the beginning. Indeed, one of them, Mr. Yule, actually presided on one occasion. But where are these European friends of the Indians now? That feeling of chivalry, which led them to support the Indians in their struggles for the amelioration of their condition, has almost totally disappeared. The non-official Europeans have now made common cause with the officials, and have carried also the Eurasians along with them. The latter have at last preferred to cast in their lot with the Europeans, abandoning the Indians. The Indians can expect no longer any support from the Anglo-Indian community.

So the Hindus alone have to do all. But are they strong enough for the purpose? Yes, if united. But are they united? Where are the Zemindars? Big or small, most of them have given up all thoughts of serving their country in the way their fathers used to do. If the Hindus had been able to form a strong union among themselves, they might have yet made some effort to arrest the gradual fall of their country. But the middle classes get no support from the wealthy. We don't at all mean to say that it is all the fault of the wealthy classes that they don't accord support to the middle classes. Do the middle classes deserve it?

Now we come to the back-bone of our community—the middle classes,—to which belong the twenty-eight Commissioners who resigned their seats. But are the middle classes united? Alas! no. The bitterest of feelings divides them. But this is not a proper matter for newspaper discussion. There is no patriotism in the land. We are led to throw all blame upon the rulers of the land. But the real fact is that we bring most part of our sorrows by our own folly, meanness, and passion.

We have seen how low we have fallen. On the other hand, have our rulers shown any indication of improvement? That is to say, are they more friendly now than they were before? No, on the other hand, the feelings between the ruled and the rulers are getting more and more strained. In days gone by the chief ruler of the province protected the people from the oppression of his subordinates. But now the policy that reigns supreme is to support the subordinate at any cost. Officials have thus been encouraged to become more autocratic than before. Thus the people are not in a position to help themselves, nor can they expect any help from their rulers. Individually there are very many good men among officials. But they can do nothing. If they show what is called any "pro-native" tendency, they are out-casted by their brethren.

Perhaps the Hindus are destined to disappear from the face of the earth. It is but fitting that the race, which gave religion to the world, should find it inconvenient to live in this age of big armaments, when the governing law of nations is might is right. The physical, nay, the moral and intellectual deterioration of the race leads to that conclusion. Of course, there is no instrument to measure intellect, but one can see at a glance that the Indians are day by day getting lower and lower in stature. That is a fact which no one can deny, and that is a fact which leads to only one conclusion, namely, that the nation is destined to disappear.

DURING the Ilbert Bill agitation, the people of India were abused in the vilest manner by some low-class Anglo-Indians, who found in the columns of the then *Englishman* an opportunity of indulging in their spite. This method was renewed during the Age of Consent measure, when the Indians and their women were abused in the foulest manner possible even by the highest officials in the Council. The helpless Indians heard all this and sighed. They had no remedy; neither did they seek any. And now we find the *Pioneer* telling its readers that in a certain village called Ujah-Bearah near Agra, a European was tempted by the natives through their women who became "outrageously indecent" for that purpose. The object of the *Pioneer* is to show that Europeans are hated by the Indians; and that the latter, therefore, never let slip an opportunity of encompassing their ruin. And his second object is to throw some discredit upon the burning complaint, noticed even by the Prince of Wales, when His Highness was here that the Indians are maltreated by low Europeans, for which, however, they get no remedy. And why should the *Pioneer* abuse the Indians in this outrageous manner? No nation, not even the savages send their women to seduce men. As for the Indians, everyone knows that the honor of women is guarded more jealously here than in any other part of the world. Adultery is a civil offence in England, but it is criminal here, because adultery is considered by the Indians to be a more serious offence than by the people of other countries. To accuse the Indians, therefore, of using their women to seduce Europeans may be a joke to expose the fallacy of the defence which urged that the Rangoon woman had solicited the two dozen soldiers, but to narrate it as a sober truth is to malign a helpless people whose civilization is older than that of their maligners. And for the *Pioneer*, the leading Anglo-Indian paper, to descend to such gross abuse! We have

some experience of the temper of the average Anglo-Indian community. The attitude of the bulk is that of hatred towards the Indians. This is betrayed on every occasion when an opportunity presents itself. The resignation of the Commissioners, and the ability and firmness displayed by the citizens of Calcutta have presented an opportunity for the display of Anglo-Indian bile. When the ruler is generous, they keep themselves within the bounds of moderation. But if they find that the supreme ruler has any anti-Indian tendency, they let loose all the vile passions which every man in the universe possesses, and which all educated and cultured men try to keep under restraint. When Lord Curzon came, his kind and sympathetic words produced a revolution in the tone of the Anglo-Indian papers. Those generous sentiments sobered them. All that changed, however, when His Excellency gave his support to the Municipal measure. They jumped at the conclusion that he was "one of us," and thought it would not be disagreeable to Lord Curzon if the "natives" were abused. But can it be true? Can Lord Curzon approve of such vile abuse, as the allegation that natives of India use their women as baits to seduce European soldiers?

As a reply to the vile accusation of the *Pioneer* that Indian villagers send their women to seduce unwary Europeans by outrageously indecent overtures, we can refer to the letter of an Englishman who writes to the *Madras Times* that usually when a British soldier's life or liberty is in question his brother-soldiers will go to "any length of perjury" to extricate him. As an instance he writes:—

Some years ago a revolting murder of a poor chucker took place in the Fort. Heaps of military friends of the accused, including non-com: and their wives, came forward to swear that at the time of the outrage he was in a circus on the Esplanade. This evidence broke down, the Judge commented in severe terms on this unblushing perjury, but these witnesses were never prosecuted for the perjury. It is idle after that to talk in holy horror of the perjury of natives. Let us begin by punishing the perjury of Europeans and then natives may begin to believe that we really do regard perjury as a sin and a crime.

We said that European soldiers are taught to hate the Indians. We do not say that the Government does this or that there is an institution where they are regularly trained to hate the people of this country. But somehow or other they are so taught. A European youth was once talking to us in a very friendly manner in a railway compartment, and an elderly man, a European too, who was a stranger to us both, took severe notice of this unseemly conduct of the young European and severely chastised him for having mixed so familiarly with a native. A native is an object of not only contempt but also of sport to the average European. The same correspondent says:—

This morning at about ten o'clock Captain John son, the Chief Plague Superintendent, and a party of Police came to my house. I was asked if all the members of my family had been inoculated. I told them out of all the twelve who formed my family, nine had been inoculated, and three—one a child about a year old, the second was suffering from consumption, and the third from bleeding piles—had not been inoculated. If, however, the medical officer was of opinion that there was no harm to inoculate even those three, I had no objection. I was at once dragged out, the women who were cooking the meals were dragged out, a few who were working at our weaving looms were also turned out of the house; the door was bolted and a padlock put on. We have no place where to go to, no one allowing us shelter.

The writer says that the attitude of even European gentlemen towards the Indians is not as it should be. He says:—

Only a few days ago a hurried and tired plague official at Perambore asked an "officer and a gentleman" for his passport. The following elegant rebuke of bad manners was administered:—"You ought to call me 'Sir.' You swine, you d—d beast."

Of course, the plague official was not cared and that is a point in favour of the European gentleman. The feeling, however, is general among Europeans that the Indians are no better than swine and beasts. But yet the Indian has this advantage over his European fellow-subjects that he never drinks liquor and thus never makes a beast or swine of himself. Here the lowest Indian maintains his old parents; here it is a disgrace to send a man away without food who comes hungry to the door. Here in India we have more devoted parents, children, wives and husbands than perhaps in any other part of the world. It is these amiable traits of the Indians that make them soaverse to leave their homes for gold or for foreign countries: the Indian prefers domestic peace and happiness to glory and wealth. Surely the Indian is not a beast. The writer referred to above concludes:—

In a word let officers behave as gentlemen treating natives with decency and courtesy, and Tony Atkins will speedily follow suit. He's not a fool. Colonels ought to talk more to the men on parade about their behaviour to natives. It is all very well to be particular about buttons and facings. A little attention to manners and conversation would not be amiss.

The feeling of Europeans, especially soldiers, towards Indians, is not of the most cordial kind; yet the same European soldiers were employed, with irresistible powers, to enforce plague rules! The result was that the people suffered in a manner they had never done before under the beneficent rule of the British. Here is a case showing how, even now, the plague officials oppress the helpless people of this country. The following paragraph is quoted by the *Chamfion* from a vernacular paper of Bombay:—

Some years ago I travelled in the same compartment with several members of a military football team coming from Bellary to Madras to compete at a football tournament. I have no reason to suppose that these men were other than typical soldiers. Indeed, a football team would probably contain the better elements of the regiment, as the confirmed blackguard is averse to violent exercise. Well, the conduct of these men, at the stations gave me a clear and disgusting proof of their attitude to the natives. Every native who came at all near the window or who betrayed any natural curiosity as to the occupants of the carriage, their uniform, etc., was saluted as a b—y Kafir, a b—y soor, etc. Finally one man, with no more emotion than if he were describing the intended slaughter of a hawk, said:—"I intend to get one of them afore I goes home." There could be no possibility of any mistake as to his meaning. He meant killing a native. The others grinned, promptly and intelligently, but no remark was made and no remonstrance offered. It was evidently an every-day thought with more than one of them. This is a revelation of military feeling to the natives that one can never forget.

A tornado is not so inexorable as a plague official sometimes is. When Lord Bishop Weldon came to India, we thought his Lordship would take up this burning question into his kind consideration. For, if he is interested in the spread of Christianity, his Lord-

ship ought to know that, for that purpose the first thing to be done, is to show the heathen, the charity and nobility of the Christians. But, we fear, missionaries, even the highest amongst them have not much influence in India. Lord Curzon, however, can do both by precept and example. We hope his Lordship will take up this question into his kind consideration.

Here are the particulars of the case as given by the *Raja Patrika* of Ahmedabad:—

A low caste woman of a somewhat loose character, Radha by name, was living with her servant, Ranchod, on the second floor of a small house belonging to one Mr. Mansookh, situated outside the Deor Gates on the way to the Cantonment, near the Railway level-crossing; while on the ground floor lived a poor Mahomedan Kalu Mia with his wife Nur Bu and two children. This poor Sev" near the crossing and the husband and wife used to watch the shop in turn. On the 22nd of September last at half past three in the afternoon, after Kalu Mia left his house for his shop, his wife and children were taking their meals four soldiers to their door. It is said they intended to go to Radha but as some other of the type was with her, they did not like to go back disappointed and so thought it best to outrage the poor Mahomedan lady. Three of them stood at the door and one who was rather chivalrous, entered the premises, and what followed? The lady was all confused and out of fear, leaving her dish aside tried to effect an escape with her children to preserve her chastity; she was helpless as the demon caught her in his arms and tried to outrage her, while the others were laughing at the game and enjoying the sport. This was marked by some passers-by and many others gathered there, but finding that the miscreants were *Sahels*, none of them could venture to interfere nor try to make his way in; however Kalu Mia hearing of this, came up to the scene and entered the house; in so doing he was very badly beaten on the waist and his arm was dislocated. His wife also received a severe blow on the head and so both fell unconscious on the ground floor. The soldiers outside and fearing that Kalu Mia and his wife were dead, ran away in haste but in so doing one of them forgot his hat there. On the complaint being filed before the Commanding Officer of the Cantonment, the soldiers were, on the strength of the hat and the fresh marks on their face, identified; but we regret nothing further seems to have been done in the matter by the authorities. Had timely succour not come up we doubt if the poor Nur Bu would have escaped the lot of the unfortunate Mah. Goon.

Of course, we cannot vouch for the correctness of the allegations; but, when they are specific and published in a local paper, they should not be ignored. We are told that the soldiers were traced out. If so, how could the authorities allow them to go scot-free? The Government ought to order a thorough and sifting enquiry into the matter and to publish the result for general information. These scandals are growing apace, and some severe measures ought to be taken to put a stop to them.

OUR Ahmedabad correspondent writes to us under date, the 6th instant:—

I have already wired to you a short account of an alleged attempt at outrage upon a Mahomedan woman by some European soldiers outside the Delhi Gate, as published in the *Raja Patrika*. Since, then I have personally made an enquiry into the affair. The result of my enquiry tallies with the facts stated in the *Raja Patrika*. I was further told that, in the house, there were, at the time when the outrage was committed, with the unfortunate woman, not only her two children but her younger brother, Mohamed, a boy about 10 years old, who had also his wrist dislocated. I saw both the woman and her husband Kalu Mia. I regret to say that the injury he received is a serious one, and it will take at least two weeks to cure. He being the only earning member of his family, the other members have been reduced to a state of starvation. Indeed, the distressed condition of the family brought tears to my eyes. I hope some charitable persons will come forward to lend them succour. The little boy is also not well. Radha, the woman who lived in an upper flat, his removed from the house and is now living only a little way off. The family of Kalu Mia, therefore, apprehend further mischief. A sign-board has been hung up in front of the house on which has been written both in English and Gujarati, "No admission without permission." The hat that was found in the house is in the possession of the officer before whom the complaint was laid. A fortnight has passed, but I regret to say, no further inquiry has been instituted by the authorities.

As Lord Curzon is interesting himself in these cases of outrage, will His Excellency be pleased to send for an official account of the Ahmedabad incident? Just imagine that a respectable Mussalman woman was attacked by four soldiers in broad daylight, in her own house, and narrowly escaped the fate of the Burmese woman, Mah Goon! It is a wonder that though the hat of one of the culprits was found, yet none of them has been put on his trial for having outraged the modesty of a female and caused grievous hurt to her husband. Is such a thing possible in any other country than India?

The facts of the Barh whipping case may yet be in the recollection of the reader. We shall, however, summarise them here briefly. Mr. Foster, Sub-divisional Officer of I. P. C., that is to say, for abstracting certain records from his office for improper purposes, and passed the following sentences upon Abdul Rahaman 3 months' rigorous imprisonment, and on Wallayet Hossein 3 months' simple imprisonment. A motion was made before the Sessions Judge of Patna, who made a reference to the High Court under section 138 Cr. P. C. recommending that the convictions should be quashed, as the Sub-divisional Officer had tried the case in a most illegal manner. Their Lordships, Justices Rampini and Pratt, who heard the reference, delivered the following judgment:—

Mr. Foster has, in his explanation, candidly admitted that upon reflection he finds the whole of his proceedings to have been void under section 539 cl. (k) of the I. P. C. In forwarding his explanation the District Magistrate remarks that he believes Mr. Foster's action was "honestly mistaken," that he had received information that records were being abstracted from his office for improper purposes, that he placed guards to prevent outsiders from communicating with the clerks, and that it was one of those guards who made the discovery in question and at once informed Mr. Foster. We are ready to believe that Mr. Foster was led astray by mistaken zeal and that his

judgment was somewhat affected by his bad state of health at the time. The result was deplorable. A summary trial was forthwith held upon inadequate materials, before a judge who was himself a principal witness, and without allowing the accused time to consider his defence, non-appealable sentences were passed including a sentence of stripes which were inflexible and cannot be revoked. Making every allowance for the conditions and circumstances indicated, still we must condemn Mr. Foster for his precipitate and illegal action.

We set aside the conviction of all three petitioners. Their Lordships directed that a copy of the judgment be forwarded to the Government of Bengal for information. A correspondent informs us that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has not only removed Mr. Foster from Barh and placed him under the direct control of the District Magistrate, but has divested him of his whipping power. We are further told that His Honor would have taken more severe action if he were convinced that the proceedings of Mr. Foster were due to "negligence or idleness" and not to "mistaken zeal" on his part. His Honor, it is said, has expressed a hope that, in future, Mr. Foster should behave in such a way as to regain the confidence he has lost. We need hardly say that, both Sir John Woodburn and Mr. Bolton have laid the country under deep obligation by taking prompt measures in connection with the case, which created a good deal of sensation when it was first published in these columns. By the light punishment they have inflicted upon Mr. Foster, they have also done him a great service. If the vagaries of Mr. Foster were not taken notice of and put a stop to, he might have been encouraged to play further pranks and thus place himself and the Government in a very false position. It is thus to the interest of both the public and the offending official, if prompt notice is taken of his high-handed proceedings when they are brought to the notice of the Government. Those who think that the prestige of the Civil Service is hurt if an erring member of it is punished, are very much mistaken. The punishment awarded to Mr. Foster has enhanced, and not lowered, the prestige of Government.

It is a sorry figure at best which the Government of Bombay is cutting with regard to the affairs of the Natus brothers. It will be remembered that sometime ago in reply to a question in the Bombay Legislative Council the Local Government denied all complicity as to the escheatment of the landed property of the Natus situated in the Langli Native State. After the reply was published, the *Mahratta* published some correspondence tending to show that the Government, or at best one of its accredited agents, was not so ignorant of the affair as it pretended to be. Everybody expected the Hon'ble Mr. Chatterjee would return to the charge and put another question, in the light of the facts disclosed by the *Mahratta*. Some surprise was, therefore, expressed at the circumstance that nothing of the kind was done at the last meeting of the Bombay Council. The Bombay correspondent of the *Madras Standard* has come forward to explain what is a puzzle to many. According to him, a question was put on the subject and the Government got out of its awkward position by disallowing it!

THE Hindu Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta were found fault with for their talkativeness, but the London correspondent of the *Lucknow Advocate* has found a reply to that accusation in the account of a municipal meeting in the imperial country itself. The following is taken from the *Sun*, a London daily paper:—

"Some choice language was used at West Ham Council meeting last night over a discussion on the proposed appointment of shorthand clerk at £4 4s. per week. In commenting on so large a sum for the work, Alderman Athey said, a councillor had been sued by his Secretary who only got 10s. weekly. Councillor Bishop: No, 18s. per week. (Loud laughter.)"

Councillor Jacobs (to Alderman Athey): You blackguard, you are the worst blackguard in West Ham.

Councillor Bishop: Surely, Mr. Mayor, you are not going to allow such personalities.

The Mayor: It must and shall be withdrawn.

Councillor Jacobs: He is not only a blackguard but a liar also. (Disorder.)

Councillor Killa: It ought to be withdrawn for the credit of the Council (A voice: "You have none," and great disorder.)

Councillor Jacobs: He is a liar.

Alderman Athey: I don't take any notice of such scum—I don't want it withdrawn.

Eventually the matter was allowed to drop."

WE are glad to be informed, that the reform of the Police is one of the objects which His Excellency the Viceroy has in his mind. The ways of the Police are sometimes not only dangerous but mysterious and inexplicable. Here are the facts of a case which we take from the *Lahore Tribune*. The Deputy Inspector of Police, Thaneshwar, summoned Anchli, a Hindu widow who is described by Mr. Magistrate Gibson as "a very respectable woman," which means that she is a lady. For we don't know whether there is any real difference between a "very respectable woman" and a lady. The Deputy Inspector summoned this widow lady and told her, in the presence of a good many witnesses, that she was living in adultery with her dead husband's cousin. Now, whether she was so living or not was nothing to you, them, or to the Deputy Inspector. But the charge made against this unfortunate woman meant more to her, for it meant to her something more than death. A Hindu woman will bear anything but not a whisper against her character. To summon the Lord Bishop and tell him that he is a thief would be a trifling offence compared with the act of a Police officer summoning a Hindu widow and telling her that she was not only unchaste but an incestuous adulteress. What led the Deputy Inspector to act in this manner is more than anybody can tell; so we said that the ways of the Police were oftentimes mysterious. Well, Anchli, the Hindu lady, lodged a complaint against the Deputy Inspector; and Mr. Gibson, second-class Magistrate, was entrusted with the task of making an inquiry. Mr. Gibson found the charge to be true. He said that the widow was made to submit to this questioning in a most open manner. He says:—

Further, it was done in the most open way possible and there was no attempt at concealment. According to the evidence the Thaneshwar deliberately summoned some three or four citizens to be witnesses of what he was going to say to Banwari at the Thana. Also when he summoned Anchli he was sitting in the *dehli*

with two or three citizens who had come on business and he interviewed her there before the scene.

So he made it a point to make the scene as much public as possible. Mr. Gibson says that "the widow appears to be a very respectable woman and one unlikely to bring such a charge unless true." The case then came before the District Magistrate for disposal. And the following is the judgment:

Mussammat Anchli, widow of Moti Brahmin, of Thanesar, *Versus* Deputy Inspector of Thanesar. Charge Sections 500 and 323, I. P. C.

CHARGE.—No offence seems to have been committed by the Thanadar. He appears to have had a suspicion that the woman was with child and abortion might be caused and therefore to have called her to enquire.

The woman is a respectable Brahmin widow and the Thanadar's treatment of her was brutal and tactless and to be reprehended.

Case dismissed under Section 203, C. P. C.

(Sd.) A. LANGLEY, District Magistrate.

So, according to District Magistrate Langley it is no offence, on the part of a Police officer, to summon "a very respectable woman" and then to tax her with unchastity and all that, before company! Of course, it would have been an offence if any private man had done so, is it not? A Bengali editor was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for casting reflections against the chastity of a lady. But the Deputy Inspector did more than tax the lady with incestuous adultery. He taxed her before company and before company "put his hand over her stomach and felt it, presumably to see if she was with child." When the District Magistrate held that no offence was committed, the matter was carried to the Appellate Court, and the Sessions Judge, Mr. Lewis, of Delhi, passed the following order:—

The charge which Mussammat Anchli brings against the accused is that he sent for her and charged her with her having had illicit intercourse with her deceased husband's cousin, and then put his hand over her stomach and felt it, presumably to see if she was with child. She declares that the charge against her is absolutely false and that it was made in presence of others. If these allegations are to be believed I do not see how it can be said that the Deputy Inspector has not committed offences punishable under Sections 500 and 354, I. P. C. What legal or moral duty was cast upon him to act as he did?

We ask of all Englishmen to say whether such things are possible in England. And why are they possible here? Because Magistrates, even experienced officials like District Magistrates, view with a lenient eye the doings of the police. If a lady had been summoned by a Police Inspector in London and her stomach felt and if she had been taxed with sexual immorality before company, the officer would have been lynched by an infuriated mob. But even such a high official as a District Magistrate forgot the fact that the Indian has his feelings like others.

HERE is a cutting from an American paper, the *New York Press*:—

Marietta, Ohio, Aug. 9.—"Val, did I warn you to stay away from this house? Did I not tell you not to come here to-night?"

These words were addressed to the corpse of Valentine Clark as it sat upright in a chair in the home of Miles Harper, with two gaping holes in the breast, made by the charge of a shotgun fired by Harper. Harper had come home from Detroit after a week's absence, and found Clark trying to induce his wife to accept his caresses. Clark had been warned by the outraged husband and, when he heard the talk through a window, he got his shotgun and killed Clark as he sat in a chair.

Mrs. Clark was notified and, instead of breaking down, she addressed her husband's corpse as stated, then turned and went home to her children.

Mrs. Harper declares that Clark's attentions were repulsive, and her husband believes she was imposed upon. Both are glad Clark is dead.

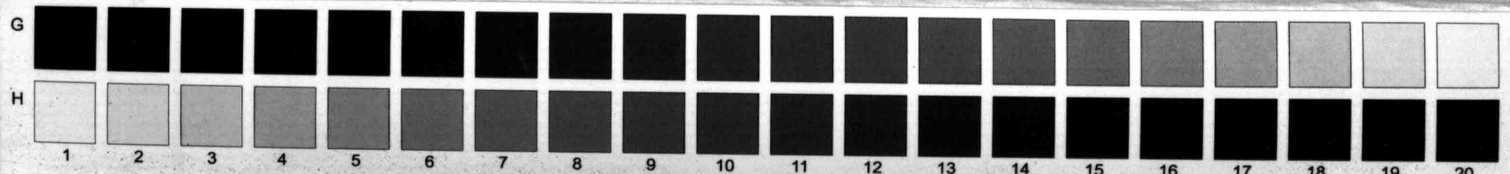
Harper has not been arrested, as all sympathy is with him. Both are oil men, Clark coming from Pennsylvania and Harper, from Indiana. Harper says he ordered Clark from his home before shooting, and that Clark reached for his revolver. Harper warned Clark twice in July that he would kill him if he again annoyed Mrs. Harper.

Now, if a similar event had happened in India, how would the husband have fared? Not only would he have been put on his trial and consigned to *haji*, but convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged. Perchance, if an influentially-signed petition were submitted on his behalf and the Governor of the Province were a man of humane disposition, the condemned man might have been reprieved and his death-sentence commuted to one of transportation for life. Yet Indians are more sensitive about the honour of their females than people are in other countries. An Indian, in circumstances of the American noticed above, would not only have killed the man but also the woman for having encouraged him in the way she did, knowing full well that his object was wicked. The English have been ruling over this country for about 200 years, but they have not apparently been able to discover as yet the fact that Indians, rich or poor, learned or illiterate, lose all control over themselves and are apt to commit dreadful acts when they find their wives, sisters or daughters misbehaving themselves or being forcibly dishonoured by others. Anglo-Indian Judges, when trying these so-called offenders, should never treat them with severity, but always pass very light sentences upon them.

WE welcome Mr. Paget, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, back from home. He has resumed charge of his office. The great tact he shewed in suppressing the Talla riots which at one time assumed very formidable proportions and in protecting the lives and properties of the citizens at that crisis, justly raised him in the estimation of the Indian public. Mr. Paget has a thorough knowledge of the inner life and character of the children of the soil; while his very name inspires confidence in all. It is to be hoped that when the Commissionship next falls vacant his claims will receive due consideration at the hands of the authorities. We also welcome Mrs. Paget, the newly married bride of the Deputy Commissioner, who not only belongs to one of the most ancient families in the United Kingdom but is a literary character.

THE *Englishman* is jubilant over the result of the Municipal elections. Says our contemporary:—

Our contemporaries are apparently hugely delighted with the "fiasco" of the Municipal elections. Why they should be so is not clear. The immediate result of the elections is to throw a number of extra seats into the gift of the Government by way of nomination. There will now be twenty-five Govern-



ment nominees instead of only fifteen. All this makes for better government, but presumably that was scarcely the intention of the "Well done, 28."

Our contemporary is glad, because so many Babu Commissioners have been driven out and their places are to be filled up by Government nominees. But should not every Englishman, who cares for the reputation of his country, deplore over such a result? The English Government is slow to give a privilege; but when it grants one, it does not withdraw it. If this is the rule in the ruling country, it should, on no account, be deviated from in the conquered countries. Having deprived the people of India of their independence, the English people, who are enlightened rulers, should neutralize this wrong by gradually teaching them the art of self-government. In 1877 the English Government, after mature deliberation, conferred the boon of the elective system upon the citizens of Calcutta, and invested their representatives with considerable powers of control over the Municipal affairs of the town. Twice the cry was raised that they were not fit for the exercise of these powers; but, on the last occasion, that is in 1883, it was established, beyond a shadow of doubt, that not only had Calcutta improved wonderfully well under their management, but the system, that had been introduced in 1876, was the best that could be devised not only for the improvement of the city but for giving the people an opportunity of learning how to manage their Municipal affairs. What the generous rulers ought to have done, ten years after, was to confer further privileges upon the people and make them enjoy real self-government. What they have, however, thought proper to do is to take away the little of self-government that was given to them. The Englishman ought to hang down his head in sorrow and not jubilate over the extinction of local self-government in the capital of the Indian Empire. It is of small moment to the Bengalee Babus whether or not they are allowed to enjoy a privilege which was only a gift, for they are gradually coming to realize the fact that the Bengalee nation, that is to say, the higher classes, are doomed to disappear from the face of the earth in the course of the next century. Indeed, three-fourths of the *bhadraloks* have been already swept off under British rule. It will, however, not redound to the glory of the great English nation that, having conferred a boon upon a conquered people, they took it away afterwards. According to Hindu notions, if a donor takes back his gift, he not only injures his reputation in this world, but imperils his soul in the next. Sir John Woodburn declared that it was a myth that local self-government had ceased to exist. The result of the elections will, however, bring the fact home to His Honour that he was mistaken.

THERE are unmistakable indications to show that Government has been impressed with the fact that outrages upon Indians by European soldiers have assumed such serious proportions that special measures are needed to put a stop to the growing scandal. Indeed, several remedies have already been adopted, but, alas! with little or no good results. The following is the latest step taken in this direction:—

A representation having been made to the Government of India, it has been decided not to allow soldiers to go out shooting with small-bore rifles, and that the nature of the weapons should be entered on the pass before one is granted.

We fear that the above measure will do very little to help the cause of humanity. Our firm conviction is, that no rule or measure will put a stop to such outrages, so long European soldiers are not punished adequately for their misdeeds and are not made to feel that the life of a "native" has some value. What a spectacle did the Sialkote shooting affair present! Two soldiers went out shooting in a village. They saw a bird sitting close by a woman. And what did they do? One of the soldiers fired at the bird, but shot the woman in the face, instead! To the soldier, surely the life of the woman did not appear a bit more valuable than of the bird near which she sat, otherwise he could not have acted in such a careless and heartless manner. The above is a typical case and correctly represents the feelings of European soldiers in general towards Indians. Such being the case, as we have said above, the only sure and effective way of putting a stop to the scandal is to make the European offenders feel, by adequate punishment, that it is no joke to kill or wound a native of this country.

WITHOUT meaning any disparagement to other local Governors, we may say that if they were to follow the example of Sir A. P. MacDonnell in governing their respective Provinces, they might alleviate the distress and sufferings of the people more promptly and effectually than they are likely to do under the stereotyped method. When a district is threatened with scarcity of famine, the usual custom with the local Governor is to leave the matter entirely to the local authorities and shape his course of action according to the suggestions contained in their official reports. Sir A. P. MacDonnell will do no such thing. He will at once run to the affected place, see the situation with his own eyes, consult the local officials and the leading men of the locality, and then come to his conclusion. It was by following this policy mainly that he succeeded so admirably in grappling with the last famine in his Provinces, with comparatively very little cost though it was the greatest of the famines that had ever overtaken that part of the country. We have been led to make these remarks by the programme of work that His Honour has set for himself during his November tour. He leaves Naiin Tal on the 30th October, and at once proceeds to the places which have suffered most from drought and in which there is the possibility of relief measures being needed. In this way His Honour will visit Bundelkand, Meerut, Muttra, Agra and Jhansi, arriving at Allahabad about the end of the second week in November, from where he goes on after a day or two to Lucknow. At each of the centres mentioned above, the Lieutenant Governor proposes to hold conferences with the local officers and landlords as to the state and prospects of the country, for the purpose of ascertaining what measures of precaution or relief are actually required. Preparations are already complete for the opening of test relief works in Muttra, Agra and Jhansi, and it now rests with the District Officers to direct the com-

menement of the operations. Now compare this wide-awake vigilance and activity on the part of the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces with the policy of inaction adopted by the Governor of Bombay. We read that tens of thousands of cattle are dying in various parts of the Western Presidency for want of fodder. And yet beyond opening up the Thana Forest for the free grazing of cattle, the Governor seems to have taken no other steps to save the only valuable property of the people. The forest lies at a considerable distance from the places where the cattle are starving. They are too weak and emaciated to walk so far and get their fodder in the forest. They must be carried by railway if they are to be saved. The Governor of Bombay has however left everything to Mr. Lely and this officer, though he is doing his best, can't do much without Government help. If Sir A. P. MacDonnell were the Governor of Bombay, he would have personally gone to the scene of distress, and in consultation with Mr. Lely and the important personages of the locality devised a means to check this wholesale destruction of cattle.

THE last mail brings the list of the candidates for the Home and Indian Civil Services and Eastern Cadetships who have, according to the Civil Service Commissioners, obtained the first eighty-three places in the recent open competitive examination. The selection of every candidate is conditional on his passing a medical examination, which is to be held in London soon after the publication of the results. Amongst these 83 passed candidates, there are only four Indians, namely, Mr. J. N. Roy, Mr. J. N. Pal, Mr. R. N. Aiyar and Mr. Balak Ram. Mr. J. N. Roy passed the examination successfully last year, but was rejected on account of his alleged physical unfitness. We trust that a similar objection will not be raised this time in his case, and that of the other Indian candidates. The manner in which members for the Indian Civil Service are recruited does not obtain anywhere else in the world. Fancy that an Indian should travel ten thousand miles from his home and hearth to a foreign land, reside there for years together at a ruinous cost, and pass a competitive examination with the best youths of the ruling country in the language of the latter in order to be able to hold an appointment in his own country! The arrangement is unnatural on the face of it, and the proud and enlightened English nation should have not tolerated it for a moment. A similar examination ought to have been held in India to enable the Indian youths, who have not the means of going to and residing in England, to try their chance for the Indian Civil Service. As a matter of fact, those Indians who come out successful in the open competitive examination in England are not the best of our youths. The holding of the Indian Civil Service in England thus shuts out the really superior talents in this country from the Service. There is no nation so noted for their strong sense of justice and fair play as the English. Yet, the Parliamentary vote for holding the Civil Service Examinations simultaneously in India and England was set at naught by a Liberal Ministry with Mr. Gladstone at its head. The rejection of Indian candidates on physical grounds is an additional and most discouraging obstacle in the way of the Indian youths competing for the Civil Service. For, their brilliant success in the examination may count for nothing if some medical men happen to discover certain physical defects in them. Let us trust, that the Board of Examiners under the Civil Service Commissioners will be more liberal in future and not scare away Indian youths from the examination by a too strict examination of their physical condition.

It seems pretty clear that a crusade has been started against local self-government in India. Calcutta has lost the little it had, and the Mofussil Municipal Bill of Bombay, when passed into law, will deal a death-blow to self-governing bodies in that Presidency. In Madras, Sir Arthur Havelock's Government has passed an executive order to the effect that, an elected Municipal Commissioner may be removed by Government if, in the opinion of the Collector of the district, his presence in the Municipal Board is likely to create a breach of the peace or bring Municipal administration into contempt! Do they fight with lethal weapons in Madras Municipalities? For, we cannot otherwise account for this extraordinary order. We do not know if, after the promulgation of such an order, the elected members, who have a spark of self-respect in them, will care to serve their respective Municipalities. In due course, we believe, such an order will be passed in other Indian Presidencies also, and the shadow of local self-government, conferred on the people of this country through Municipalities, will be entirely taken away. Let us repeat what we have said in these columns several times: Lord Ripon introduced the measure of local self-government in this country more for the benefit of the rulers than that of the ruled. Overwork was killing the District officers. It was to give them relief that they were relieved of their control over Municipal towns, and the representatives of the people entrusted with it. The leisure, thus secured to the Magistrate-Collectors, enabled them to devote their time to more important matters, and thus improve the administration of their respective districts. It seems, the Government no longer requires the unpaid services of the independent section of the people of this country for the management of their Municipal bodies. If so, the representatives should not seek civic honours any more but, let the authorities and their chosen men carry on the Municipal administration of the country. If Municipalities could be divested of their independent character, the inevitable result would be the expulsion of all representative element in the Legislative Councils. For instance, what representative Indian will care to stand for the Calcutta Corporation again?

As if the cup of the misery of the people of Bombay is not full, the deficiency of rainfall has brought on a crisis in the cotton industry in that Presidency. The principal cotton growing districts of the Province have received a rainfall much below the average and the output of the year cannot be estimated at more than an eight-anna crop. If then, the average consumption is reduced by half, it practically means a cotton famine for six

months of the year. The available supply of the article, moreover, cannot last more than the end of November next. After that the Cotton Mills of Bombay shall have to work short hours to keep their business running throughout the year or work, as they now do, for six months and then remain closed for the rest of the year. Of these two alternatives the former is considered more preferable; for, in that case the mills will not rust which is not close. Another question, and a very important one in view of the impending scarcity in that part of the country, is that the mill operatives will not be thrown out of work. Taking every thing into consideration the outlook of the cotton industry in Bombay is of a very dismal nature and the mill-owners will shortly be confronted by one of the most serious problems that have ever presented themselves. What is more, the mill hands, thrown out of employment by the closing of the mills, will only add to the number of starving wretches who are wending their way to Bombay in quest of food. The outlook is equally bad in the Central Provinces and the N.-W. Provinces.

THE Government of the North-Western Provinces are seriously considering the question of Police reform in those provinces. As a step in this direction and in order to get sufficient data to base their future action upon, the District Magistrates of Allahabad, Benares, Lucknow, Cawnpur, Agra and Meerut have been directed to take up and try as many cases as possible in order to find out the manner in which the Police work them up. At the end of six months, these officers are to report on the manner in which the police investigate cases and to offer suggestions as to the method.

FROM Cawnpur comes the report of a fracas between a party of soldiers and some "gharri-wallas." It would appear that a few days ago there was an empty carriage at the carriage-stand, close to the Empress Hotel at Cawnpur. This a party of soldiers, who had been enjoying themselves at the hotel, wished to engage to carry them to the barracks. The driver finding the soldiers to be the worse for liquor, and fearing the consequences of giving them a point-blank refusal, bolted. But the sons of Mars were not to be thwarted so easily. They were determined to go in a carriage: and a carriage they would have, no matter whether there was a Jehu to drive them or not. The owner of the carriage, on the other hand, was not willing to let his carriage be taken away in that summary fashion; a number of natives rushed out of Chota Bibi ka hatta, brandishing their lathies. One of these weapons, was hurled at the soldiers who not only caught hold of it, but used it in their turn with such effect as to render two of the natives horsed-combat. The soldiers, after this victory, drove off to their quarters, followed by the jeers and abuses of the crowd of Indians assembled to bar their way. When subsequently a servant of the owner came to the barracks for the carriage he received a rather warm welcome—rather, too warm we should say as evidenced by sundry cuts and bruises all over his person.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, SEPT. 29.

THE TRANSVAAL AFFAIR.

I am afraid there is now little hope of a peaceful settlement of the Transvaal difficulty. The Orange Free State has declared officially through President Steyn, that if the Boer Government go to war, it will march with them for good or ill. The Cape Government constitutionally elected, is in deep sympathy with President Kruger, the Afrikaner or Dutch party in the Cape Parliament being in power just now. President Kruger and Mr. Chamberlain continue to bandy despatches about the five or seven year franchise and all the rest of it, but the difficulty is that the entire Dutch element in South Africa—Transvaal, Orange Free State, and Afrikaner alike—are hopelessly convinced that whatever concessions Kruger makes, the British cabinet are determined on war, and will declare it as soon as they can get out troops enough to make victory sure. This is absolutely a false conviction. Lord Salisbury and the Queen hate the prospect most heartily, and will do their utmost to prevent it. But the whole Government is being jostled and hurried into a hateful thing by their evil genius, Mr. Chamberlain, whose diplomacy throughout has been openly aimed at seizing the present chance of asserting once and for ever the paramountcy of Britain in Africa. We have 15,000 regular troops in the Cape Colony and Natal, and 25,000 more are on their way from home and from India. This force will, of course, be enough to effect the annexation of both the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. If, as is only too likely, the Presidents of the two South African Republics have made up their minds that Chamberlain means annexation and will make fresh claims for every fresh concession Kruger may make, their only sensible policy will be to declare war at once, while they can through a superior force to ours into the field, and inflict some signal defeat that would rally the entire Dutch elements of South Africa to their side. In that case, I expect the Transvaal and Orange Free States would unite, declare a South African Republic which would include the Cape Natal and Rhodesia, testing once for all the supremacy of the Dutch or British elements of South Africa. If they got any real and immediate success, they would go to get their Republic recognised by Britain's enemies in Europe trading upon the jealousy which exists among great powers against Britain's trade and naval supremacy. They would be doomed to bitter disappointment for no European power has any interests in Africa strong enough to induce action and as Britain's overwhelming naval power would not be employed in South Africa, and there is no cohesion at present among the Powers of Europe, there would soon be an end to their South African Republic and the Transvaal and Orange Free State Boers would find themselves a crown colony, disarmed, and kept in order by a powerful British garrison. The British Government would spend £20 or 30,000,000 in the purchase of an African Ireland and it is hardly worth the money.

There can, I am sorry to say, be little doubt that Chamberlain has for the time being got what I might describe as "the shout of the country" with him. He has managed his business astutely enough and in his published despatches has managed very skilfully to put President Kruger in the worst possible light, that obstinate old statesman having as usual given him plenty of excuse. But the grave common-sense folk are all against war, and their influence is steadily increasing. Such men as Leonard Courtney, John Morley and Sir William Harcourt who have been making speech after speech denouncing war with a gallant little nation who love their liberty and independence to death itself, will make themselves felt if time is given them. They are vigorously supported by nearly all the Liberal press of London (the "Daily News" a melancholy exception) and by the entire Liberal press of the country. A month's grace ought to save the situation, but I have no hope of getting it. The Cabinet meet to-day, and an ultimatum is to be sent to Kruger. Chamberlain's malign influence dominates the Cabinet, and unless Lord Salisbury puts his foot firmly down the ultimatum will be rejected, and the Boers will invade Natal in 24 hours after.

Every country in Europe will cry shame on us and with full justification. They will only see in our action a desire to grab the gold of the Rand, and will look upon the annexation of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State as an act of national piracy. A policy of patience would have brought them into the British Empire without the loss of a single life. The franchise which President Kruger offered, would, in 10 years, have given the Transvaal a British president and a British cabinet. But I suppose Chamberlain shrewdly suspects that in that case, the British majority would have preferred to stick to their Republic, and that the whole of the Cape Colonies might have joined them. My only hope to-day is in the Queen. She loves justice and freedom, and hates war and oppression, perchance she will prevail over the cabinet, and instead of an Ultimatum, some moderate but distinguished member of the Cabinet, Mr. Arthur Balfour would be best, may be sent out at once, with full powers to make a settlement over the heads of Chamberlain and his pliant lieutenant, Sir Alfred Milner. This is, however, a very forlorn hope. It would, of course, mean a Cabinet crisis and the resignation of Mr. Chamberlain, and I am afraid he is far too strong in his seat for Lord Salisbury to take the bull by the horns in any such fashion.

This morning's news are ominous and depressing. The Government have stopped a regiment of the Guards at Gibraltar which was coming home from foreign service, and diverted it to Cape Town. The first Army Corps at home is formed and is capable of being mobilised in 24 hours. It will consist of six Cavalry regiments and 34 machine guns, 12 Royal Horse Artillery guns, 24 Battalions of Infantry, 4 Companies of Mounted Infantry, 3 Squadrons and 2 Brigades of Field Artillery with all the accompaniments and paraphernalia of an Army Corps. This, if unhappily necessity arises for its despatch, will raise the regular imperial forces of the Cape to at least 50,000, and adding the colonial forces, an army of at least 60,000 men fully equipped for the most modern warfare, will be placed in the field against whatever force, inevitably irregular in character, and antiquated in organization that can be brought out by the two Republics, supplemented by volunteers from the Dutch element in the Cape Colony. Of course, as far as fighting goes there can be only one end to such a war, and within six months the omnivorous British Empire will have gobbled up two independent States exactly equal in area to Bengal, Behar, Orissa Chota Nagpur and Berars. It will be a savage business, with bitter cruel hatred on both sides, and South Africa will be put back forty years in civilization. It will be at least two generations before the race-hatred this senseless war will engender, will be reduced even to the level of 1895. I fear all the mischief predicted by John Morley in the memorable speech of which I gave you a condensed account a week or two back, will inevitably spring from the evil policy which Chamberlain, the strongest man of the hour in British politics, has succeeded in forcing upon his unwilling colleagues. Jingoism is now rampant, the voice of reason is drowned in its clamour. A great statesman once said, in face of a similar outburst of jingo fever: "They are ringing their bells to-day they will be wringing their hands tomorrow." I of as now seems certain the Cabinet to-day will be captured by Mr. Chamberlain, an Ultimatum will be sent demanding from the Transvaal immediate disarmament as a preliminary to any further negotiations. In that case, little blame can be attached to President Kruger if he at once declares war and strikes the hardest blow he can before the British forces from India and England arrive. It is, indeed, a melancholy and discreditable business. All the blame cannot be laid upon the British Government it is true. Kruger has been stupid, obstinate, uncompromising and even exasperating; but it has been mainly in consequence of the inflammatory despatches and provocative speeches of the Colonial Secretary, and the action of his ready instrument, Sir Alfred Milner. In a crisis of this kind, magnanimity and reason ought to be the characteristics of the stronger Power. Exactly opposite qualities have been shown by Mr. Chamberlain. It is the hateful outcome of rotten diplomacy rendered rotten by greed of power, and rank covetousness. There can be no success to a policy resting on such foundations, and the reaction in public opinion will be rapid and certain, but alas—too late.

Reaction has already set in. Yesterday Sir Edward Clarke, the Tory M. P. for Plymouth, a constituency given over to Naval and Military interests, went down to his constituents and made the fiercest attack on the Government he was returned to support, that has yet come from any leading statesman, even on the Liberal side. He poured vitriolic scorn on the South African policy of the Government, and declared that "it would be a disgrace to the country to enter on such a campaign" as the Government contemplated. He challenged the Conservative Association to meet and pass judgment upon him, declaring that if it disapproved the course he was taking, he would, within 24 hours, resign his seat for Plymouth, and refuse to stand again. Mr. J. M. Maclean, Conservative M. P. for Cardiff, has also addressed a solemn protest to Lord Salisbury and many other supporters of the Government are restless and unhappy. The British people are generous enough when rightly appealed to, and I predict with confidence that this war, if once entered upon, will prove the downfall of Tory supremacy for the next 20 years.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

A NEW FOREIGN OFFICE.—The Foreign Office here will be pulled down immediately. Plans are already being drawn up for a new building.

MUNICIPAL.—An Azimgunj correspondent writes to say that Rai Manilal Nahar, Bahadur, the popular Chairman of the Ajimunge Municipality, has been re-elected at the last meeting of the new Board of Commissioners.

DARJEELING IN THE RAINS.—Splendid weather followed Sunday's rain indicating the close of the rains. The rainfall was three-quarters of an inch. No slips occurred at Darjeeling the rain tending to bind the loose earth. Two slips, however, are reported on the railway line, necessitating a change of train by passengers.

SUSPECTED CHILD MURDER.—Some excitement was caused in Howrah on Monday over the suspicious circumstances attending the death of a four year old girl whose body was found in a ditch in Juggutbulbapur. Deeked out with ornaments, the girl on a Sunday had come from Amta on visit to the house of her uncle. In the evening she was missed. On a search being made her body was found in the ditch without the ornaments. It is supposed that the girl was murdered for the sake of her ornaments. The matter is under investigation.

LEGISLATIVE.—The Legislative Session at Calcutta this winter will probably be pretty heavy, though with the exception of the Press Messages Bill no measure of a novel nature is likely to be introduced or passed. As at present intended the measures which will be passed will probably be the Mines Bill, the Assam Emigration Bill, the Emigration Health Bill, the Registration of Ships Bill, the Whipping Bill, the Companies Branch Registration Bill, the Telegraphic Press Messages Bill, the Transfer of Property Bill, the Prisoners Consolidation Bill, and the Bill for establishing a Chief Court in Burma. Opinion being apparently against such a measure, it is improbable that Mr. Ananda Charlu's Religious Endowments Bill will be passed in its present form. The Bankruptcy Bill will probably be simplified and advanced a stage, while the Cantonment House Accommodation Bill will most likely be kept in abeyance for the present.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

A CHARGE OF RAPE AGAINST SOLDIERS.

(From a Correspondent.)

AHMEDABAD, OCT. 6. The local *Maja Patrika* deserves credit for having published the account of an attempted rape here outside the Delhi Gates, by four soldiers, on the 22nd September last, at 3 P. M. on a poor Mahomedan lady. The arrival of her husband on the scene and time's succour saved her from further mischief; but this safety was purchased only with a dislocation of the husband's hand and blow on the lady's head. Though a complaint was made and the soldiers were identified, nothing has been done by the authorities in the shape of independent enquiry.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, OCT. 12.

President Kruger, in telegraphing to sympathisers with the Transvaal at New York, says that the two Republics are determined that, if they must belong to England, the price which will have to be paid will stagger humanity.

The official reply of Great Britain to the Transvaal's Ultimatum has been published. In it Government regret the peremptory demands made by President Kruger, which, they say, are impossible to discuss.

The Free State Boers have seized a Natal train which was bound to Hatrismith. Continued reports are current that the Boers have occupied Laing's Neck.

Lord Methuen, with forty officers and 400 troops, will sail for the Cape on the 21st instant.

The Netherlands Consul-General in London has been charged with the interests of the Transvaal during the war, and the American Consul at Pretoria with those of Great Britain.

LONDON, OCT. 13 (MORNING).

Reuter's special correspondent telegraphs from Vryburg, in Bechuanaland, that a British armoured train has been destroyed by the Boers causing, it is feared, a great loss of life.

LONDON, OCT. 13.

Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the Transvaal.

Mr. Conynghame Greene and his staff have left Pretoria.

The telegraph lines have been cut in several places south of Mafeking, which is thus quite isolated.

Two thousand Boers occupy the railway at Vryburg.

A considerable force of Boers has entered Natal via Laing's Neck.

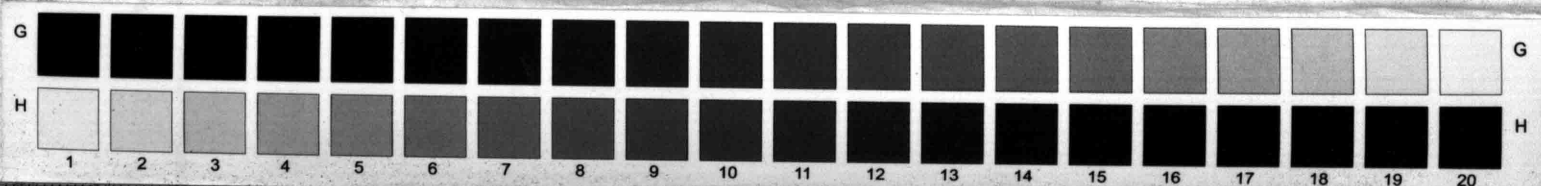
President Steyn has issued a proclamation, in which he says that the Free State burghers will assist the sister Republic in resisting an unscrupulous enemy who has long sought a pretext to annihilate the Afrikaners. If the Transvaal loses its independence, President Steyn says, the independence of the Orange Free State would be meaningless.

Speeches have been made by Mr. Asquith and other Opposition leaders, in which they all agree that the Boer Ultimatum closes all party polemics.

The destruction of the armoured train by Boers, reported by Reuter's special correspondent on the Western frontier of the Transvaal, has been confirmed. The Boers derailed the train, which was proceeding late last night towards Mafeking with two seven-pounder guns on board. After bombarding the train with artillery for half an hour, those on the train were made prisoners, except the driver, who is missing. The affair took place at Kraaipen, a station forty miles south of Mafeking.

It appears that nobody was killed on the armoured train.

Further particulars of the attack on the armoured train state that the crew on board maintained a brisk fire for four hours after the train was derailed, but were overborne by the artillery fire of the enemy. Two escaped and those captured include Lieutenant Nesbit, who was slightly wounded.



SEASON AND CROP REPORT.

MADRAS.—For week ending 7th October.—Scattered showers fell in parts of the Presidency, principally in the Southern half, where they were for the most part light. The water-supply is decreasing and is deficient, especially in the Southern half of the Presidency. Sowings continue generally, but are retarded owing to the rain holding off. The standing crops are generally in fair condition, but need rain everywhere and especially in parts of Ganjam, the Deccan and the Central and West Coast districts. Pasture and fodder are generally available, though the latter is scarce in some parts. Cattle are in normal condition. Prices are rising fast almost throughout the Presidency and even the price of rice has gone up considerably, especially in the Cichars and the Deccan. The rise is due principally to the demand for export towards Bombay. Prospects are generally fair, but good rain is wanted.

BOMBAY.—For week ending 11th October.—Slight rain fell during the week in Poona, Satara, Kanara and the Karnatak, but none elsewhere. It is urgently required in Kathiawar and Guzerat and in four districts of the Deccan, where the standing crops are withering for want of moisture. Harvesting of the early crops are in progress in Sikarpur, Hyderabad and the Konkan. Sowing of the spring crops is progressing in parts of Sind, the Karnatak and Ahmednagar, and is retarded in Guzerat and in parts of Poona. The river is low in Sind, and irrigation from canals has almost ceased in Hyderabad and is deficient elsewhere. Crops have been slightly damaged by rats and insects in three talukas in Sind. The fodder-supply is insufficient in Shikarpur, Kaira, Broach, Surat, Khandesh and parts of Dharwar, and cattle are suffering in Kathiawar, the Panch Mahals and Ahmedabad. Their condition has also been impaired in parts of Sind, Poona, Nasik and Khandesh. Prices of food-grains have fallen in one district, are stationary in seven and have risen elsewhere. The daily average numbers on relief works were as follows:—on test works—Ahmedabad 1,500, Kaira 4,355, Broach 1,791, Khandesh 11,737, Satara 782—total 20,165. On relief works—Ahmedabad 8,044, Kaira 225, Panch Mahals 3,540, Broach 6,093; dependants:—Ahmedabad 323 and Khandesh 3,719—total 21,944. On village relief—Ahmedabad 3. Grand total 42,112.

BENGAL.—For week ending 9th October.—Some rain fell during the week in Eastern Bengal and in a few places in Central Bengal. The reports from Orissa and Chota Nagpur continue very unsatisfactory owing to the prolonged drought; elsewhere the crops are in good condition, but some rain is now required for the high lands. The fields are being prepared for the spring crops, some of which are being sown. The price of rice has risen in the districts of the Patna division and in Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Cuttack, Ranchi, Palamau and Singhbhum; elsewhere it is almost stationary. Fodder is everywhere sufficient.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.—For week ending 11th October.—There has been no rain during the week. It is urgently needed, more especially for the late rice crop which is suffering from drought, and for the preparation of the land for the spring crops. Irrigation is being carried on wherever practicable. Harvesting of the autumn crops is finished. Ploughing for the spring crops and sowing of gram, peas and linseed are in progress. The crops have been damaged by high westerly winds and in several districts by insects. Markets are well-stocked. Fodder is generally sufficient, but certain districts report a difficulty in procuring it. In places the demand for grain for export has caused a further rise in prices which are now very high. Immigration from Bikanir, Punjab and other districts to the west is reported from Meerut, Bulandshahr, Aligarh and Muttra. A test relief work has been opened at Talbat in the Lalitpur district, but only 69 persons were employed on it.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.—For week ending 10th October.—The weather is generally clear and hot with the nights and mornings cool. Another week's drought has caused still further damage to the standing crops. Withering has become more general and has progressed more rapidly in Betul, Chhindwara, Nimar and Wardha. Fodder is fast drying up; it is also fading elsewhere, but might recover partially if rain falls. The other autumn crops are also fast drying up, especially on light soils. In the Waingunga districts the rice crops, both transplanted and broadcast, will yield little or nothing. In Raipur and Bilaspur, except in irrigated or the best low-lying fields, rice is drying up. In Sambalpur the early rice crop is being harvested, but the standing crop is in poor condition for want of rain. Spring sowings are in progress where possible. Germination of early sowings has been generally successful in Jubbulpur and Damoh, but is unequal in most districts, and in many places the plants which have germinated are beginning to fade owing to the excessive heat. Rain is everywhere very urgently wanted to save what remains of the autumn crops and to enable the winter sowings to be carried out. Cutting of grass is giving temporary occupation to labourers, but want of employment is increasingly felt and distress is spreading. Village relief is in progress in Balaghat, Betul, Hosangabad, Seoni, the Harsud tahsil of Nimar, parts of Nagpur, Bhandara, Saugor, Jubbulpur, Narsingpur, Bilaspur and Chanda, and is being organized in Mandla. The numbers on relief works during the week were as follows:—on relief works—18,062 and in receipt of gratuitous relief—49,345—total 67,407. Scarcity of fodder water is increasing in parts of Betul, Nimar, Chhindwara, Narsingpur, Seoni, Saugor and the Nagpur country. Grass is being largely exported from Damoh. Prices have risen sharply in all the rice districts except Chhanda, where they have already reached a very high level; they have also risen in Wardha, Nimar, and Saugor; in the other Northern districts they have fallen a little and in Mandla the opening of a cheap grain shop by private agency has produced a rapid recovery after last week's abnormal rise. The cheapest prices are: wheat 12, gram 13, rice 10½ and jowar 11 seers per rupee. The dearest prices are: wheat 7, gram 8½, rice 6½, and jowar 8½ seers per rupee. The highest price of the chief staple in any district is 6½ seers (rice) in Chanda, but jowar is still selling in that district at 11 seers per rupee.

RAJPUTANA.—For week ending 4th October.—Slight rain fell during the week in one tithil of the Alwar State. Agricultural operations

are in abeyance. The standing crops are in fair condition where irrigation is possible. The condition of cattle is bad and fodder is very scarce. Prices have risen generally. During the week 2,013 persons emigrated from Marwar; 2,053 from Ajmer-Merwara; and 1,765 from Jaisalmer. The numbers employed on relief works were:—in the Ajmer-Merwara district 49,917; Marwar 10,985; Tonk and the Nimbahera pargana of Tonk 650; and Bharatpur 507. The numbers on ordinary works were: in Marwar 100; in receipt of gratuitous relief—Merwar 1,356 and Marwar 2,263; children fed in kitchens—Merwar 1,480; and persons employed on light work—Shahpura 3,200. Prices—Merwar 8½, Ajmer 10½, Beawar (not received), Tonk 12 and Bharatpur 12 seers per rupee. Prospects are bad.

For week ending 11th October.—Agricultural operations have been generally suspended. The standing crops are in fair condition where irrigation has been possible. Land is being prepared for spring sowings in parts. The condition of cattle is bad and fodder is very scarce. Prices are rising generally. During the week 3,050 persons emigrated from Marwar and 2,207 from Ajmer-Merwara. The numbers employed on relief works were:—in the Ajmer-Merwara district 56,677; Merwar 9,685; Tonk 582; Bundi 798; Bharatpur 1,193; and Bikanir 4,793. The numbers on ordinary works were: in Marwar 100; in receipt of gratuitous relief—Ajmer-Merwar 1,902; Marwar 2,355; Bharatpur 1,051 and Bikanir 619; children fed in kitchens—Ajmer-Merwar 1,720; and persons employed on light work—2,500 in Marwar and 4,000 in Shahpura. Prices—Ajmer 9½, Beawar 9½, Tonk 12, Bharatpur 9½, and Bikaner 9 seers per rupee. Prospects continue unchanged.

Correspondence.

THE INDIANS—A NATION OF "COOLIES."

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—
"O wad some Pow'r the giffie gie us
To see ourselves as others see us!"
It wad frae onje a blunder free us
And foolish notion!"

So sang the poet of old Caledonia. But, we Indians, commonly called 'Natives' by a certain section of Anglo-Indians, are fortunate enough to have that giffie given to us by our present Rulers; and, it is our own fault, if we do not utilise it, or do not benefit by it. Now, I proceed to tell you how others see us. I am a graduate of a University of historic fame; I belong to an independent profession; and, as my grand-mother, of pious memory, was good enough confidentially to tell me that if I at any time took the trouble to enquire backward for four or five generations I would not discover any grave-digging or land-tilling or parcel-tying or yard-measuring forefathers. I had the conceit to indulge in the luxury of being under the impression that I was a real gentleman, and that I was entitled to pose as such. And, when 'thru' the mercy of Goddess Durga there was a holiday; and, when I found the members of the ruling class were flying in various directions, in fact to all the points of the compass, for a change, I also nursed the idea of a voyage to Penang and Singapore—at my own expense and not at the expense of the State and of having a mouthful of sea air. I confided this idea to a friend—a Native like myself—who took the trouble to call on a firm, who runs steamers direct to Singapore, to get information and to engage our passage. He saw a *Sahib* there, who, after hearing everything, handed over to my friend a printed Form and desired him to get it signed or certified by the doctor who examines coolies recruited for immigration. My friend noticing that the Form was intended for deck passengers, informed the *Sahib* again that we intended to travel first class, and we were not deck passengers; whereupon the *Sahib* said he understood all that, and had given the right Form as the 'Natives' were classed under coolies. My friend—a pertinacious Native—wanted to know how Jews and Armenians born in India, and who had no other home or country except India, were treated; and he was informed that they were classed as Europeans; and only the pure sons of the soil, without any distinction, were classed under coolies! My friend came and informed me all that he had learnt, and as we were not anxious to visit a coolie doctor in a coolie shed, and travel as coolies under a coolie certificate, we gave up all idea of seeing Singapore for the present. I mentioned the matter almost immediately to two of my European friends, one of whom seriously advised me to approach either the Hon. Mr. Bolton or his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject; but I declined to follow his advice as I did not want any exception, if possible, to be made in our case as we were content to remain coolies in the opinion of our Rulers, we were all coolies, in fact a nation of coolies. Some years ago when the case of Empress vs. Cohen, known as the "Telegraphic order fraud case," was being tried on the Original Side Sessions, before Mr. Justice Beverley, a veritable oaf who in cross-examination introduced himself as the Marquis of Breadalbane—said a 'coolie constable' was present when a particular incident took place. I heard the expression but never comprehended the real significance of it until I became aware of the steamer office incident. Now, Mr. Editor, I am, seriously speaking, particularly anxious that my countrymen should see themselves as they are, and others see them as coolies, should be lifted up, and we should begin to see and realise our real position and try, and it is no good, it is sheer waste of energy, to go in for politics, to go in for law making, to go in search of political or constitutional rights. If we can allow ourselves to be placed under obligation by a European shopkeeper, when he sells any article to us, and, when irrespective of its merits, we look upon the article with pride, solely and simply because it comes from an English shop—why can't we for the present leave politics and legislation to our Rulers, and save our energy, time and money for useful purposes? Look at the last Calcutta Municipal Bill; when the Government here was cremating the last vestige of Local Self-Government, the Home Government was pressing the Transvaal for representation for others. And why? Because our Rulers are of opinion that we are not fit for Representative Government. And what are we doing to show that we are? Then again, I should advise my countrymen to abandon their unhealthy desire

for title; to gain which, a very large number have wasted their life-long energy, time and money, and numbers are doing so daily in every village, town and Presidency. To bask in the sunshine of the smile of a District Collector, or a Divisional Commissioner, or a Ruler of a Province, many Zemindars have been ruined, and many are ready to ruin themselves, by mortgaging their zemindari, but who for the good of their country or countrymen would not find it convenient to spare or spend a rupee. If all the money, energy and time, spent in political agitation, and in title-hunting, expeditions, had been devoted to our moral or material improvement, we Indians would not now have remained coolies. I think it to be our solemn and honest duty to abandon all things that are ornamental, and to devote ourselves exclusively towards our moral and material improvement. Let us be manly and straightforward in our dealings; let us give the lie to the statement that we are a nation of liars; let us fully appreciate the beauties and virtues of self-respect and self-help; let us learn how to love and honour our own country and countrymen; let us bury petty party feelings and jealousy and pray together at the altar of unity and patriotism; let us learn the art of defending our person and that of our women and children instead of running to the nearest Police Constable or rushing into the columns of a newspaper for universal pity and redress; and, I have not the remotest doubt, political rights and constitutional privileges and high sounding titles will run after us with canine fidelity, and as a matter of course. It is better, far better, to be a noble by nature, by education, or by acts, than a noble by declaration at a Durbar; and it is better, far better, to have the reputation for truthfulness than to be a law-maker by sufferance, and be disbelieved in a court of justice when it is a matter of conflict of testimony between that of a European and an Indian. At the next meeting of the Congress let us openly declare our faith; let us openly renounce politics and all our craving for Municipal and all other empty honours; and let us devise means which would better our condition and elevate our position in the scale of civilisation so that others may be compelled to look upon us as gentlemen and not coolies. With regard to England, she is indeed to be pitied! She came here to the land of the Vedas, to the land of Sanscrit literature—the finest literature without exception in this wide world—to the land where science in all its branches existed to such an extent that no discovery of the modern age need take by surprise one who is well versed in its ancient lore, and in such land she has been ruled for over a century by a race, and is ruling, over a nation of coolies only! And this is the sad story she has to tell her civilised sisters.

AN INDIAN.

OUTRAGES IN OODEYPUR.

NOMADIC Murwaris with a large number of cattle frequently pass through Oodeypore during this season of scarcity of food and fodder.

One of their bands, consisting of some hundred men, was passing on the 6th October through the Keorakanal, a woody defile some twelve miles from Oodeypore, when a gang of Bhils, numbering about five hundred men, fell upon the Murwaris and their cattle.

It is reported that in the scuffle that ensued many persons on both sides were wounded and some Murwaris killed.

Many of the animals were cut to pieces and eaten. The State official of Magra, at the head of two companies of troops, has proceeded to the spot.

The riots at the corn market were gradually becoming serious; and one day swords were freely used. This led to the stoppage of the sale of State corn except to State soldiers and Englishmen. The corn dealers have again been allowed to sell for themselves, but the rate has gone up to 4½ seers to the rupee. But still grain is not easily available for purchasers. To add to the difficulty the bunnies are not selling more than one rupee's worth at a time, perhaps in anticipation of a higher market in future. The State has called for a return from all districts or jagirs, giving a detailed account of the results of the famine and the arrangements made to meet it. Famine has given an impetus to the digging of wells and tanks, in several States. One of these tanks, undertaken by Thakur Manohar Singh, Chief of Sardargarh, in Meywar, deserves mention. The tank will be more than a mile in length, and will cost one lakh of rupees.

At about one o'clock, on Sunday morning a dozen men attacked an ekka not far from the Cantonment Post-office at Fatehgarh. Such a thing had never occurred before. This has frightened the people, specially those who have to go to the Fatehgarh railway station after 9 P.M.

On the departure to England of Dr. Lawder, the Private (Paegah), Secretary to the Nawab Sir Vikar-ul-Umra Bahadur, Sir Vikar appointed Mr. Khwaja Ismail, his *aide-de-camp*, to act for him. The experiment of putting in a young man to fill an appointment of importance calling for the display of tact, energy and intelligence has been a success. Mr. Khwaja Ismail was sent to England in 1888 at Sir Vikar's private expense. For a short time he remained in a small school in Bedford; he was then sent to Shrewsbury, and after undergoing a course of study in French and Latin he passed the public Entrance Examination into Shrewsbury School. This school takes a right place among the oldest public schools in England, and Mr. Khwaja Ismail spent four years there, going through the regular routine and devoting special attention to science and French. His success in science was so marked that he passed the Entrance Examination into the Royal College of Science London, and there made a special study of metallurgy and mining. He had just completed a term when in 1895 he was recalled to India by Sir Vikar and began his preparation for a public career by being attached to the Judicial Office where he worked for six months, displaying a marked aptitude for Secretariat work. He then went through the different branches of work under that model Secretary, Mr. Faridounji, and made himself well acquainted with the correspondence between the Government and the Presidency. In 1898 he was selected from among a large number of candidates for the post of *aide-de-camp* to the Prime Minister, and as already stated has succeeded Dr. Lawder as Private Secretary.

THE KOLHAPUR CASE.

ANOTHER REMAND.

THE proceedings in connection with the Kolhapur poisoning case were resumed on Thursday, October 5th, before Rao Sahab Vishwanath Balal Gokhale.

About three o'clock the Chief Revenue Officer, Mr. Shirgaonkar, appeared and instructed the prosecution to withdraw the application for a lengthened remand. This was done accordingly, and the case was proceeded with.

Ismail Mahomed, a hamal, residing at Kolhapur, said he was in the service of the Kolhapur Durbar and worked under Augustin, the butler. He remembered the dinner at the New Palace on the 5th August. On the evening of that day Khatta brought some rolls, biscuits, and bread from the bakers to the Palace. He kept them in a box and did not hand them over to him. Afterwards, about two minutes after the bundle was brought, witness received charge of it, and gave eleven rolls to the old butler employed by the Political Agent to put on the table. The remaining rolls were placed in the box, which was not in the charge of any particular person. The rolls placed on the table were not eaten. He learned this after the dinner was over. The Karbhari came and asked Augustin where the bread was, and Augustin asked witness where he had put the rolls. Thereupon he put out eight rolls, four half loaves and some biscuits, and told him he had given rolls to the Agent's old butler. The old butler was then asked where he had put the rolls, and he produced the eleven from a table in the verandah. Those eleven rolls were also kept along with the eight rolls. All the nineteen rolls, the bread, and the biscuits were kept in a box. Inquiry was made as to how many rolls had been brought; Khatta said he had brought twenty rolls. One roll was found wanting, and, therefore, Augustin sent Hassan to the baker for one roll more. Hassan brought this next morning.

By the accused: Rolls and other things brought from the baker's were never counted. Servants sometimes ate things like that without permission. In the discussion which took place there about the missing roll, they arrived at the conclusion that the roll must have been eaten by some one. Augustin, the butler, was held responsible for the things brought for the dinner.

The accused: How many witnesses are there in the case, your Honor?

His Honor: I understand about a dozen.

Daniel Hiraji Jadhav, the baker, said he belonged to the American Mission. He knew both the accused. The accused No. 2 was his servant, and was arrested while in witness's service. On the 5th August, Augustin, the butler, came to witness's house at about nine or ten o'clock, and ordered him to give fifteen half-loaves, twenty rolls, and half a pound of biscuits. He gave twenty rolls seven half-loaves, and half-a-pound of biscuits to Khatta at about a quarter-past four. Next morning, about seven, an ex-police sepooy came to him and asked for one roll. He did not pay for it, but said the butler wanted one roll more.

The ex-police sepooy came to him while he was at tea. He had got six or seven rolls to eat himself, and out of those he gave one to the sepooy. He said the butler wanted the roll, and witness gave it to him without asking him pay. Their accounts are settled afterwards. He did not get the price of that roll afterwards.

Augustin, the butler, met him and paid him one rupee eleven annas for bread taken for the dinner. He still owed witness ten pies for rolls previously supplied. He told witness that one roll was missing, and that poison was mixed in the loaves and rolls. The twenty rolls made that day were prepared by the second accused. Witness prepared the yeast and the second accused weighed and mixed the flour. Thirty-two seers of flour were kneaded with the yeast. The second accused mixed butter with it afterwards, and added eggs and sugar. Witness was not present while the rolls were being prepared. The accused was the most highly paid of witness's servants. Others assisted the accused in preparing the rolls. There were four servants besides accused. The yeast was purchased from a Bombay Company. They used a bottle in powdering salt—they rolled it. The glass would certainly not be ground into the salt by the process. No other grass substance was used in preparing the bread.

There was no possibility of a piece of glass being mixed with the flour while being kneaded. If any grain of wheat piece of stone were found while the flour was being kneaded it would be taken out at once. The piece of glass shown him could not possibly have got accidentally into the bread prepared in his bakery. He could not say how that piece of glass was mixed in the rolls prepared at his place. His servants, he believed, were all trustworthy. For eleven years he had supplied bread and rolls to the Durbar. Dr. Sinclair once told him to be careful about his grinding stones.

The accused Fernandez was a customer of his. When Fernandez lived in the town the second accused used to supply him with bread. All witness's servants lived in the Sudder Bazaar.

And does Fernandez also live there?—He does.

How far is Fernandez's house from the second accused's house?—About thirty yards.

Cross-examined by Fernandez.—Would not your reputation as a baker suffer, if glass or extraneous matter was found in your bread?—It would.

How often are your grinding stones roughened?—After every month or two.

How long before or after the dinner was it that your grinding stones were roughened?—I cannot say.

In the course of further cross-examination by the accused witness said he occasionally supervised the roughening of the stones. Sometimes he had received complaints from *sahib* log that they found grit in the rolls and bread supplied to them. If any glass got into the roll ordinarily while being prepared it would be detected. The second accused always prepared the rolls. On rare occasions other servants made them. He knew Philip, the butler to the Political Agent. He told witness once that he wanted to purchase accused's Philip told witness to let him know if the horse was to be sold. Philip did not say that if the horse was not sold to him he would ruin the accused.

The case was then adjourned until Friday.

On Friday morning the Public Prosecutor read a letter from the Chief Revenue Officer, Mr. Shirgaonkar, as follows:—"Mr. Brewin has arrived and says that as it is for him to determine and advise whether the case should be proceeded with or not, he will require some time. Kindly, therefore, request the Court to grant you a postponement till one o'clock."

The accused said it was very hard to be continually remanded without evidence. He had been kept in custody for a long time now. The Magistrate considered the position a difficult one; but under the circumstances he granted an hour's adjournment.

On the sitting being resumed an application to the Court was made by the prosecution for a remand for eight days.

As the Public Prosecutor spoke in Marathi, it was impossible to follow his remarks.

His Honor said he had the same objections to further remanding the case and not deciding it on the evidence already forthcoming as he had at first. However, the prosecution must make a written application.

The following application was put in:—"The Durbar has specially brought Mr. Brewin here to investigate this case, and as he does not know anything about it, it is necessary that he should become acquainted with the facts in order that it should be made complete. A remand for ten days is therefore requested."

The Magistrate said he would remand the case, but the two accused must be granted bail. The prosecution might as well have two days more and he would therefore adjourn the case until the 18th. Bail was granted the prisoners in Rs. 1,000 each.

There were in Court besides those mentioned the Chief Revenue Officer, Mr. Shirgaonkar, Mr. Brewin, Inspector Maru of the Bombay Police, who had previously been engaged for some time in making enquiries, and Mr. Seiler, of the American Mission, to which Fernandez belongs.—*Times of India.*

Notes by the Mail.

LORD CONNEMARA is progressing favourably after an operation on his hand performed by Mr. Macready of the Great Northern Hospital.

A SOMALI mullah with 2,000 followers is 100 miles south of Berbera, which he threatens to attack. The Berbera garrison has been reinforced, and is quite prepared to meet attack.

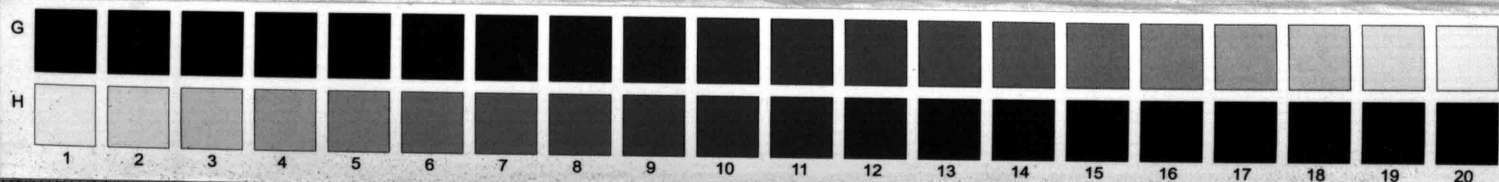
PRINCE and Princess Victor Dhuleep Singh and Prince Frederick Dhuleep Singh have been on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon at Highclere Castle near Newbury.

It has been announced in America that Mr. John Morley has written a study of Oliver Cromwell, which is to appear in successive numbers of the *Century*. This will be a notable contribution to the existing literature about the Great Protector.

NINETEEN Turkish officers enter the Prussian Army on October 2 as lieutenants. This is the largest number ever admitted at one time. Eight enter the Infantry, five the Cavalry, four the Field Artillery, one the Railway Corps, and one the Pioneers. They will wear the Prussian uniform.

ON Sept. 24 the Queen's reign exceeded by just three years the duration of that of King George III., her Majesty having reigned sixty-two years and ninety-six days, from June 20, 1837, while her grandfather's occupancy of the throne lasted fifty-nine years and ninety-six days, from Oct. 25, 1700 to Jan. 29, 1820.

THE Cairo correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:—Preparations are being made for an immediate expedition against the Khalifa. The Sirdar has returned to Omdurman hurriedly, and Colonel Wingate has left Cairo recently to confer with him there. The precise details of the expedition will be decided upon in conference between Colonel Wingate and Lord Kitchener. All the arrangements that may be made will be kept absolutely secret until the troops are actually ready to march, as the Khalifa is known to be in communication, through the medium of spies, with both Omdurman and Cairo, and the Sirdar hopes, by a series of forced marches, to effect a surprise. The Khalifa has established himself near Jebel Gedir, and with him now so considerable a following that the force sent against him must necessarily be a large one. Although it is not anticipated that British troops will be required for the expedition, in all probability a small contingent from the army of occupation will be sent to Omdurman shortly. The distress which prevailed some time ago among the rebels has now disappeared. This is due to the fact that the rains which fell recently have enabled them to procure supplies. Moreover, the terrible personality of the Khalifa himself has apparently stifled all expression of discontent among the natives in his vicinity, and his forces have been augmented. Abdullah's entire camp is now reported to be in a flourishing condition, and in an aggressive humour, raids upon the local tribes being carried on with temerity and success. A powerful Emir named Arabi Dafalla, who was at Bara, on the White Nile, was made his way with a considerable following to southern Darfur. He is endeavouring to communicate with the Khalifa with a view to their joining forces. The Emir Ali Dinar who escaped from Omdurman on the eve of the battle, is still in Central Darfur, where he has established his authority. He is reported to be on friendly relations with the Sudan Government, but his attitude would be doubtful should any success attend the Khalifa or Arabi Dafalla. The Sudan Railway has now been pushed on to a point within sixty miles of Omdurman, but the broken nature of the country will prevent the work from going forward with the same rapidity as has hitherto been the case. In a later telegram the correspondent adds:—"It is expected that the expedition against the Khalifa will not take place before the middle or the end of next month, unless circumstances should demand immediate action. In any case, practically all the Egyptian troops are stationed at or near Omdurman, and mobilisation can be effected very quickly should the occasion require it. Since Colonel Wingate's departure, the War Office here is practically in ignorance of further movement, which will be arranged between the Sirdar and Colonel Wingate, and kept as far as possible secret. The British troops will, as at present arranged, remain at Omdurman during the expedition. They will number between 700 and 1,000 men, and will probably not be requisitioned until the middle of October when decisive action is resolved upon. Considerable uneasiness prevails as to the strength of the Khalifa's and Arabi Dafalla's followers. The former are known to be well armed, the majority possessing rifles and ample supplies of ammunition. A large number of Egyptian troops leave here to-morrow to complete the regiment's already in the Sudan."



MME. BERNHARDT.

M. JULES Huret's biography of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt is, naturally enough, written in a lyrical vein, says the New York "Critic." But then, how else but with enthusiasm and admiration could he have reviewed that long succession of triumphs which began with "Phedre" in December of 1874, and has not yet reached its apogee with "Hamlet"; for even that undertaking, so thoroughly in keeping with the great actress's adventurous spirit has been a personal victory. She has played in failures. Sardou has degraded her talent for the sake of popular success, but Sarah herself has always remained the same—one of the great artists of the world, sublime often in spite of her roles. The book reflects, in fact, the spirit of this Bohemian of genius, this creature of impulses who, for the sake of a whim, has time and again jeopardised the position so laboriously attained and maintained, and has been forgiven with unvarying readiness, because the magic of her art exerts a spell that cannot be resisted.

Sarah herself tells the story of her birth and early days, and sets at rest for ever the doubts regarding her nationality:

"I was born in Paris, at No. 256, Rue Saint-Honore, in the house where lived Mme. Guerard who to-day, at seventy-six, is still active and in good health. She saw me come into the world; she was present at the birth of my son Maurice, and of my grand-daughter! She is indeed a faithful friend. You know that my mother was a Dutchwoman, and a Jewess. She was blonde, small and stout, long in the waist and short-limbed, but she had a pretty face and beautiful eyes. She spoke French very badly, with a strong Flemish accent. She had fourteen children, among them two pairs of twins. I was the eleventh child."

After a few years passed in the care of one concierge, the child was taken home. "But soon it was time to think of my education, and as my father insisted on having me baptised, I was sent to the Augustine convent of Grande hamp, at Versailles. So, at the age of twelve, I became a Christian, was baptised one day, went to my first communion the next, and was confirmed with three of my sisters on the third. I became very pious. I conceived a fervent devotion, an ardent adoration for the Virgin. For a long time I kept always near me a small golden image of her, which was presented to me. It was stolen, and the theft grieved me deeply."

At the convent the child was by turns melancholy and mischievous. Her mother did not love her very much, she says—less, at all events, than her sisters. She was but rarely taken home, spending several of her vacations at the convent. Repeatedly she was the leader in escapades from the institution, which she planned and carried through.

"At last I left Grandchamp. What should I do? My wild outbreaks did not interfere with my mystic inclinations. I wanted to become a nun! But that desire did not survive long. My mother gave me a teacher, Mlle. de Brabander, a woman of great distinction, who had been governess to the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia. She worshipped me. But what was to be done with me? Although I was still very young, my hand was asked in marriage by a glover in the neighbourhood, by a tanner, and finally by the pharmacist from whom I bought my marshallows. I refused them all."

"The Duc de Morny was a good friend of my mother, and he suggested the stage. How I entered the Conservatoire has often been told. Recommended by Morny, I had hardly said the first two stanzas of La Fontaine's 'Deux Pigeons' when Aubert mentioned me to be silent and to come nearer."

"You are Sarah?"—"Yes, sir." "You are a Jewess?"—"By birth, yes, sir, but I have been baptised." "She has been baptised," said Aubert to the jury; it would have been a pity if so pretty a child had not. You have spoken your verses very well; you will be admitted."

According to her own confession, Sarah began her studies without enthusiasm. "I was there because I had been taken there, but I had no tastes for it and felt no inclination whatever. Truly, the stage did not attract me, it rather made me unhappy to be there, and often I wept bitterly. Moreover, I was terribly timid. When I talked about my inclinations with Mlle. de Brabander I thought that I would rather be a painter."

"At last it was decided that I should make my debut at the Francaise in 'Iphigenie.' I knew nobody of the company, except Coquelin, who had just joined it and continued to be my good friend. I cannot remember that I felt any deep emotion, except a very real stage-fright. But I do remember that when I lifted my thin—oh, so thin!—arms at the sacrifice, the whole audience burst out laughing."

"I never loved the stage," she again tells us "but, since it was to be, I resolved to vegetate no longer. I would be among the greatest."

Then came the Franco-German war, Sarah organised the famous hospital at the Odeon, supervising and directing everything herself with the inexhaustible energy that characterises her to this day. After the suppression of the Commune, she took up again her career, scoring a great success in Andre Theuriet's "Jean-Marie" (October 14, 1871), the curtain-raiser that to this day figures in her repertory. This play first brought her the praise of Francisque Sarcey, who, with the other critics of the day, for several years thereafter vacillated in his opinion of her talent, praising her extravagantly one day, and apparently despairing of her ultimate success in the next.

In 1872, Victor Hugo, returned to Paris from his exile, selected Sarah to play the Queen in "Hernani." The next morning the critics of Paris unanimously demanded her re-engagement at the Theatre Francaise. She broke her

JAMES REED INJURED.

Mr. James Reed, struck his leg against a cake of ice in such a manner as to bruise it severely. It became very much swollen and pained him so badly that he could not walk without the aid of crutches. He was treated by physicians, also used several kinds of liniment and two and a half gallons of whisky in bathing it, but nothing gave any relief until he began using Chamberlain's Pain Balm. This brought almost a complete cure in a week's time and he believes that had he not used this remedy his leg would have had to be amputated. Mr. Reed is one of the leading merchants of Clay Court House, W. Va. Pain Balm is unequalled for sprains, bruises and rheumatism. For sale by

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contract with the directorate of the Odeon, and made her second debut at the Maison de Moliere on November 5, 1872, in "Mademoiselle de Belle Isle."

From this moment dates the success of Sarah Bernhardt as a great actress, although it was not until December of 1874, when she played her greatest part, "Phedre," for the first time, that her fame was firmly established. Henceforth her career is too well-known to need recapitulation. It is one long chronicle of triumphs, of caprices, of ruptures, of tours through Europe and the Americas. Many of the cherished legends about her pets are declared to be fables, though the coffin is truth. One day she orders a coffin—measured for it and has it sent to her home. This coffin, which she has boldly placed at the foot of her bed, is made of pear-tree wood and bears no ornament but the initials "S. B." and the device "Quand Meme." It is upholstered in white satin. Mattresses, pillows, all are of the same material: a coquette's couch. But for the lid, always ready to be closed, one would be tempted to recline upon this gay, perfumed bed. But, unhappily, the lid is there. There is something else as well. By a strange and poetic caprice, Mme. Bernhardt has upholstered the bottom of this coffin with all her souvenirs: love-letters and faded bouquets are there, thrown together, awaiting her who has received them and won them, to recall to her in the tomb; hours happy and sorrowful passed together.

THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE PEACE DEMONSTRATION.

THE demonstration arranged to be held in Trafalgar Square against war with the Transvaal took place yesterday afternoon, and proved, so far as the object of its promoters was concerned, to be a huge fiasco, though it afforded an opportunity to a very large number of the people of London to manifest their hearty approval of the policy of her Majesty's Government. The demonstration was fixed to take place at half past three o'clock, but long before that time an immense crowd had collected which filled the square and all its approaches and the sympathies of the gathering were sufficiently indicated by their passing the interval before the commencement of the proceedings in singing patriotic songs and indulging in vigorous cheering for Mr. Chamberlain and groans for President Kruger. A large force of police, numbering in all between 500 and 600 had been assembled to keep order and protect the speakers, and it soon became evident that their services would be needed. When the speakers made their appearance they were greeted with loud hooting and showers of missiles; and when they attempted to address the people they were met with the singing of the National Anthem, the waving of Union Jacks, and hostile cries which, for the most part, effectually drowned their utterances. Dr. Clark, M. P., Mr. Hyndman, and Mr. Brocklehurst were able to make a few sentences audible to persons in their immediate vicinity, and they contended that war with the Transvaal was not called for either by the honour or the interests of this country, that the difference between the two Governments ought to be settled by arbitration of diplomatic means. Notwithstanding the manifest determination of the crowd not to give them a hearing, the various speakers persisted in their attempts for nearly an hour, amid a scene of noise and disorder which became intensified when a young man who had succeeded in fighting his way on to one of the "platforms" waved a Union Jack and pointed upward to the statue of Nelson. This evoked frantic cheering, and when it was seen that some of the speakers were trying to push the young man down the crowd made a determined rush towards the platform, which the police only repelled with the greatest difficulty. The resolution which it was intended to submit was in the following terms:—

This meeting is of opinion that there is nothing in the points under discussion with the Transvaal Government which could not be settled by arbitration, as proposed and sanctioned at the Hague Conference; that the course pursued and the tone adopted by the British Government have produced an impression on the minds of the Boers that war was being forced on them with an ultimate view to the conquest of the country; and that the prospects of a peaceful settlement have been endangered thereby; that this is essentially a case in which it is our duty, as it is our interest, to act towards a nation on the same principles of honesty and equity that would guide us in our relations with an individual. This meeting emphatically denounces the unrighteous and perilous policy to which we are being committed—a policy which, while it may heap wealth on the few, will inevitably bring ruin to the many—and protest against the spirit of unscrupulous imperialism, grasping capitalism, and aggressive militarism which is leading us to the verge of war with the Transvaal Republic. That the chairman and speakers of this meeting be appointed a deputation to wait upon the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and of the Colonies for the purpose of presenting this resolution.

The resolution was to have been submitted at a quarter to five but by half-past four all the platforms were vacant, the chairmen and speakers having departed without officially taking the sense of the meeting. The enormous multitude was by this time pouring out of the Square, shouting, cheering, and singing patriotic songs. Traffic was for a time congested, notwithstanding all the skill of the mounted and foot police; but soon the rain came to their assistance, and in the course of half an hour or so the Square and the adjoining streets had resumed their normal aspect.

At a meeting last evening of the promoters of the demonstration the following resolution was, after considerable discussion, carried unanimously:—

That in consequence of the organised to the anti-war demonstration in Trafalgar Square to-day, fomented by a section of the yellow and stock-jobbing Press, the Transvaal Committee resolves to hold a public meeting in one of the largest metropolitan halls at an early date.

The great success of Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in the treatment of bowel-complaints has made it stand out over the greater part of the civilized world. For sale by

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A CAREFUL SPIDER.

Natural science gives a short account of an interesting habit of one of the South-American spiders, as described by Dr. Goeldi. The spider in question is very common in gardens, but though all its relatives were known to spin webs, yet this one apparently was an exception to the rule, for no web was ever found. It was eventually discovered that it really did spin, but that it performed this task very early in the morning, and that as soon as the sun began to rise it was accustomed to roll up its web with its contained prey, which consisted for the most part of the males of one of the scale insects, and then to carry its load off to some sheltered spot where it proceeded to examine its "take," at leisure, and then spent the warmer parts of the day in comfortably digesting what it had eaten. Probably one reason for this proceeding is that it thereby saves what it has caught from the raids of powerful foes of some kind, and as its favourite food only flies about during the early hours, no good would result from a longer delay, and it might just as well go home, and, if need be, get to bed.

ANDREE MAY STILL BE ALIVE IN THE FROZEN NORTH.

THERE is no reason to doubt Andree's safety yet, says an eminent explorer, Dr. Wilhelm Meyer. Although two years have passed, it was not to be expected that any news of him should come before. With the exception of the two brief notes found already, dropped only a short time after his ascent, there have been numerous sensational announcements of "news from Andree" but in the nature of the case such was impossible. The first line to come from him was found in a "boje" or floating bottle in the coast of Ireland. This had been dropped only a few hours after the ascent, and was dated "July 11th, 1897, 10-55 P. M., Greenwich time, in 82 deg. N. latitude 25 deg. E. longitude. We float 600ft. high; all well.—Andree, Strindberg, Frankel." This showed that the balloon had travelled to the north-east of Spitzbergen, and, borne by a current of air from the west, was going in the direction of Siberia. The second authentic message received from Andree came by carrier pigeon, having been despatched thirty-eight and one-half hours after the first message. It was dated from 82deg. 2min. latitude, longitude 15deg. 5min. East July 13th. "Good trip; going eastward," was all that it said. It is evident from these two despatches that the south wind which prevailed when the ascent was made soon failed, or it would have carried the balloon northward instead of westward. As it is the balloon must have described a loop to the west and south before striking another current of wind to carry it northward.

As there were ample provisions on it, no danger of starvation is to be feared, and according to the maker of the balloon, it was of such quality that in three months no appreciable quantity of gas could escape, so the danger of falling was reduced to a minimum, as in that time they must have reached land of some kind.

In a conversation with Sverdrup, the famous captain of the *Fram*, Nansen's great ship, he stated Andree has every chance of success. The drift ice in which the *Fram* was caught and forced northward and westward received its direction not from any current, as Nansen holds, for the lead did not indicate any such current, but from the wind, which must have acted similarly on Andree's balloon. If Andree has been able to remain in the air long enough it is highly probable that he has been driven in the direction of Greenland, and has landed either in its interior or even further west on one of the islands of the Arctic Archipelago of North America. In fact Andree discussed these two probabilities with Sverdrup, deciding to try to land on the western coast of Greenland. The balloon is the most thoroughly equipped of any balloon ever sent up into the air. The picture of the bottom of it shows the bags of ballast and the provisions all tied securely in place. But besides food and extra clothing for the four aerial explorers, Andree, his secretary, Strindberg, and Frankel, they took with them a sled and a boat in sections, that can be put together in a few minutes.

These together with the good supply of ammunition, would insure their being able to secure plenty of food by hunting once they are landed. In fact, Sverdrup is so sure that Andree is somewhere in Greenland, that he had prepared to go on another Polar expedition, on which he will go as far as he can on the *Fram*, and then, with sledges, will visit all of the western coast of Greenland to its northernmost point, where he feels sure to get traces of Andree from the Esquimaux, and finally come up with that courageous explorer. Knowing the country as he does, Sverdrup is confident that, with his experience of three years there, he will be able to find Andree in this great waste of ice and snow. There is no reason whatever to dispute the point with Sverdrup, who speaks with supreme and sole authority on the conditions to be faced in Greenland, and if he says that he will find Andree on the western coast of Greenland there is where he will be found, unless some unforeseen accident has happened, which is hardly possible. The most northern point in Greenland that has any communication with civilisation by the Danish ships that make their way thither in summer is named Upernivik and lies in 73 deg. North latitude. The *Fram* left this place August 5th of last year (1898) to push its way further north. Since that time we have had no news from the *Fram*, and in the nature of the case could have had none. If this expedition of Sverdrup has actually found Andree, it is probable that Andree will be able to reach Upernivik this autumn, or at least to send a message thither. But even should nothing be heard from them this year, it is not necessary or advisable to be pessimistic over the fate of these explorers. Nansen was long thought lost as well as others who have made similar bold attempts. In fact,

MANY THANKS.

"I wish to express my thanks to the manufacturers of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, for having put on the market such a wonderful medicine," says W. W. Massingill, of Beaumont, Texas. There are many thousands of mothers whose children have been saved from attacks of dysentery and cholera infantum who must also feel thankful. It is for sale by *

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had we heard anything earlier, it would have meant the absolute failure of Andree to accomplish his purpose. In fact, he himself remarked to his brother before his departure that no fears should be entertained for his safety; certainly not before the summer of 1899. It is more than probable that the next few weeks will bring some news of Andree, if they do not bring himself and his companions back to the world of civilisation. Whether he has reached the North Pole or not is another question, but if he does return unsuccessful he will at least have made a notable attempt towards accomplishing a purpose which will finally be achieved when a perfect flying machine that can be steered and controlled against adverse winds is invented. The problem of reaching the North Pole will probably be solved in this way and in no other. Whether Andree is found or not, he has indicated the proper mode of endeavour in this direction. It is to be hoped that Sverdrup is right and that soon we may have definite news of their dual success.

AT THEIR BEST.

THE brain takes a longer time to develop to its highest capacity than any other organ in the body. Like the limbs, it increases in strength and power, or falls into decrepitude, just in proportion as it is exercised or neglected.

The late Poet Laureate was fifty years of age when his idylls, "Elaine," "Vivien," and "Guinevere," were published, and the series was not completed until the poet had reached his sixty-second year. Macaulay's Essays take a deservedly high place in English literature, but these collectively are not works by which the great thinker and writer would have been remembered. They were the outcome of his early manhood and pale into insignificance when compared with his "magnus opus," the "History of England." And it must be remembered that although the first two volumes were issued when Macaulay was forty-eight years of age, the two following did not see the light until he was fifty-five.

Swift was fifty-nine when his brain gave birth to "Gulliver's Travels," and John Stuart Mill fifty-six when his essay on "Utilitarianism" was published, although his "Liberty" was the child of his fifty-three-year-old brain. Milton's mind rose to its highest capacity when the blind poet was between fifty-four and fifty-nine. It was at his period of his existence when he offered to the world that sublime brainfruit, "Paradise Lost." Sir Walter Scott was forty-four when his "Waverley" made its appearance, and nearly all those stories which have conferred lasting fame upon him were composed after the age of forty-six.

Cowper had turned the half-century when he wrote "The Task" and "John Gilpin," and Dofoe was within two years of sixty when he published his wonderful "Robinson Crusoe."

George Eliot, perhaps one of the most eloquent and remarkable women writers who ever lived, was near her fiftieth year when she wrote "Middlemarch," and this was succeeded by that powerful book, "Daniel Deronda." Darwin's "Origin of Species" was evolved by the philosopher when he had reached his half-century, and his "Descent of Man" when twelve years older.

Bacon's greatest work took fifty-nine years to mature, and Grote's "History of Greece," some few years longer. Every reader and literary critic will admit that of all Thomas Hood's works, the two which stand pre-eminent are "The Song of the Shirt" and "The Bridge of Sighs." Yet these were written at the age of forty-six.

Longfellow wrote "Hiawatha" at forty-eight, and Holmes gave us "Songs in many Keys" when he had passed his fifty-fifth birthday. From these data it would appear that the intellectual faculties of mankind, speaking generally, are at their brightest and best any time between forty-five and fifty-five years of age.

PEASANT'S JOKE ON THE CZAR.

As a graduate of the famous University of Copenhagen, Prince Christian early won the respect of the cultured world. He wore the regulation cap of the university students, and participated in the social and athletic life of the young men. On his express desire no distinction was shown him; he went through the same scholastic curriculum as the other fellows, sharing their work. On Saturday evening he might be found on the corner of Grottegade waiting for his car. He was the only member of the royal family who ever made use of the street tramways. If there was no room he would stand up, and I often found him sitting on the rear rail, chatting with artisans and workmen. By moving so freely and naturally among the people he gradually crept into popular favor, and he is now the most popular Prince, not only among his own subjects, but abroad as well.

Once when promenading along the old King's highway, near the Kronborg castle, in Elsinore, he joined the Czar of Russia and the Crown Prince of Denmark, who came along dusty and weary from the hunt, with their guns slung across their shoulders. A peasant drove by with a hay rig, and the Prince hailed him, asking if he would give them a ride home. The peasant was willing enough, but it was evident that he did not know the identity of his most august passengers. The Prince made up his mind to play a joke on the man, but as it happened the man turned the joke on the Prince. Nudging the Czar with his elbow, the Prince said:

"Look here! Have you seen the Prince of Denmark?"

"No," said the peasant, without turning, "but he lives up there in the castle."

"Well, I am the Prince," said Prince Christian.

"And I am the Crown Prince," said his father.

"And I am the Czar of Russia," said the proper owner of that title.

The peasant did not know a single one of them. He just turned half way around, and removing his pipe stem, said, mischievously: "Wall, of yore the Czarr o' Russie, I'm the Emperor av Chinnah!"

The old Czar never wearied of telling the story as a "good joke."

THE opium revenue estimates for the Presidencies of Bengal and Bombay for last month were Rs. 51,40,000, of which Rs. 51,35,075 was actually received, thus falling short of the estimated revenue by Rs. 4,925.

TOWNS THAT TAKE TRIPS.

THERE are a number of towns in this country particularly those which are dependent on a single industry, the great majority of these inhabitants take their annual outing at one and the same time though not necessarily at the same resort.

The town of Haydock is a typical example of this practice. It is almost entirely inhabited by the workpeople, to the number of between four and five thousand, who are employed in the extensive Lancashire collieries of Messrs. Richard Evans and Co., Ltd. The trip is organized by a duly constituted committee, and the men decide by ballot-papers the particular resorts that shall be favoured with their patronage and presence.

This year one-half of the men voted for Black-pool, while the other half were divided between Morecambe and Llandudno. Arrangements were made to meet wishes of all; and so anxious were some of excursionists not to miss their trains that they slept in the carriages the night before starting.

With the men's wives and children the excursionists form a huge crowd and on the eventful day Haydock bears the aspect of a deserted village. A portion of the expense of the outing is borne by the men's employers.

Swindon, where are situated the great works of the Great Western Railway Company, is another town that goes tripping. This year no fewer than 20,000 persons left the town on the occasion of the annual outing, to spend the holiday at various places of interest on the company's system. By seven o'clock in the morning all were on their way; and so complete were the arrangements that not a single accident took place. In fact, none has ever been known to occur in connection with the outing. The works are closed for week, and holiday-makers wishing to remain away for a full time are furnished with passes available for the seven days.

Oldham, the centre of the cotton industry of Lancashire makes perhaps the best holiday provision of any town in the country. The many thousands of mill-hands have just returned to their work after their outing; and in the course of the week during which the cotton mills were closed they managed to get through upwards of £150,000.

"Going away" clubs are held in connection with churches, chapels, schools, public houses, societies, and all kinds of undertakings, and the vast sum thus accumulated in the course of twelve months vanishes in the sport space of seven days.

The typical Oldham mill-hand would scorn to return home with any of his holiday money in his pocket. He saves it for his outing, and his outing every penny has to go, to the advantage of nearly every popular resort in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, where during the "wakes" week the rich "Owdham" brogue can be heard in all its native strength and purity. For the time being Oldham seems a deserted town—a comparative haven of rest.

Oldham's overpowering neighbour, Manchester, goes out of town at Whitsuntide. The whole of Whit-week business at Cottonopolis is practically at a standstill; and although the streets of the town bear anything but a forsaken appearance, the native population has temporarily migrated, in large numbers, to fresh scenes and pastures new.

They go in their thousands to Blackpool, Southport, and still more distant places, to enjoy themselves as Lancashire trippers only can. It is difficult to estimate the amount of money that Manchester puts in circulation throughout the kingdom in the course of the Whitsuntide holidays, but it can scarcely be less than a quarter of a million pounds.

The Lincoln annual foundry trips, which took place some weeks ago, caused the exodus from the eastern city of fully half its population. To the number of nearly 20,000 the workpeople and their families took train to Blackpool, Leeds, London, Scarborough, Skegness, Cleethorpes, Sheffield, and other places, the first train steaming out of the station in the small hours of the morning. All the leading works in the neighbourhood were closed, so that the ancient town wore an air of quietude only possible when the inhabitants are away on holiday bent.

Burton-on-Trent has become quite famous for the truly magnificent character of the outing given to its employees by the beer-brewing firm of Bass and Co. Some 10,000 of the inhabitants annually participate in this excursion, which is provided at the firm's expense. Everything is free: the railway ticket not only covering the journey but admitting the bearer to a whole host of amusements and entertainments.

This year's excursion was to Liverpool, with its multitude of attractions, including trips to North Wales by sea, the Isle of Man, and other places of interest. Bass's is undoubtedly the largest and best organized trip of any private firm. Every detail is provided for, even down to the insurance of every one of the trippers, although no accident has ever taken place.

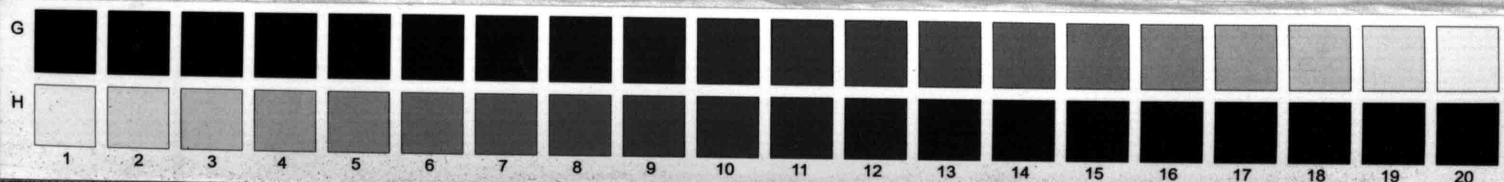
The programme of this year's visit to Liverpool is a beautifully illustrated work of art, consisting of no less than sixty-four pages. The party travelled in fifteen trains, made up of 250 carriages, which required two miles of siding to "stable" them until the return journey. Before ten o'clock in the morning the last train had arrived at the Central Station and discharged its living freight actually in advance of the booked time.

It is reported that a band of armed Waziris raided the police station of Nizampur in the Peshawar district on the 11th instant and looted eight police carbines, one bayonet, two revolvers and a large cash.

A LARGE number of Khojals Khel Waziris having entered Kurram, contrary to orders, to graze their flocks, one of their shepherds and 240 sheep and goats were seized to-day as a punishment. A few shots were exchanged, but no one was hit.

THE improvement in Indian railways continues and the earnings up to the 30th September are over 23 lakhs better than last year.

It is officially notified that an examination for some appointments to Her Majesty's Indian Medical Service will be held in London in February 1900. Copies of regulations for the examination, with other information, may be obtained on application to the Under-Secretary of State for India, India Office, London, S. W. The exact date of the examination and number of appointments to be competed for will be announced hereafter.



HOW THE DREYFUS TRIAL WAS REPORTED.

No trial since trials were first established ever created half so much excitement throughout the world as the trial of Alfred Dreyfus. We in England are accustomed to point to the Tichborne case as the record trial, and a marvellous trial it was in many ways. But the Tichborne trial becomes quite an ordinary affair when compared with the trial at Rennes.

Every nation but China has had representative in this little French town during the last month. Such a situation is rare, even in Paris where exciting events are commonplace; but it is absolutely unprecedented that practically the journalism of the entire world should be directly represented the school-house of a provincial town. It was impossible to accommodate all the reporters who had come to Rennes from the ends of the earth and though a larger building was chosen at the last moment, there was keen competition among the Pressmen for seats in court.

As soon as the reporters realized the situation they "drew" for places in pairs, the pairs thus wedded together afterwards deciding by the toss of a coin who should go inside. In some cases the reporters divided chairs, to occupying one seat; in others, the reporter who could not get in had to wait for his account of the proceedings until his lucky colleague came out. This arrangement, inevitable as it was, was not satisfactory to men who had travelled a thousand miles to be present at the trial and scores of reporters managed to squeeze between gendarmes in court, and into the space reserved for the general public. Here secret service agents and reporters rubbed shoulders with each other.

The representatives of the "Times" was among the unfortunates of the first day having lost the toss with Reuters and, together with the representatives of the "Standard" and the "Daily News," he stood throughout the day in the public space. Among the reporters who scrambled and tossed for seats in this way was an author whose books sell by the hundred thousand, and a dramatist who has had at least three Gaiety successes.

Short-hand reporting is little known in France, but it is significant of the remarkable interest taken in the Dreyfus trial that the "Figaro" had eleven short-hand writers present, with typists, four sub-editors, and about a dozen messengers. The hotel bill of the "Figaro" staff must have run into quite £200 during the trial not to speak of the cost of telegrams, which was increased by special arrangements made for this paper by the authorities.

The telegraphists of Paris have rarely been so busy as during the Dreyfus trial. It is calculated that 250,000 words have been wired from Rennes to Paris every day, and the record number exceeds half a million words all sent within nine hours. Ten wires have been in use every minute of the day between Paris and Rennes, five of them having been installed for this occasion only.

The reporters who have sent the news along these wires to the ends of the earth have not had an easy time. Many of the witnesses—of whom there were about a hundred—were almost inaudible, and the evidence would have been difficult to follow even in English. The difficulty was increased ten fold, however, by the fact that the proceedings were conducted in French, and that innumerable documents were being consulted. The papers used by M. Bertillon, the handwriting expert, covered every inch of table space, and simply bewildered the Court. They were carried into court by soldiers. Another collection comprised 600 letters and 150 telegrams from Esterhazy.

Fortunately, the trial commenced early in the day, the Court sitting at seven in the morning, and this rendered the task of reporting simpler than it would otherwise have been. At the end of the public session each day the reporters met together in a room set apart for them in the basement of the Bourse, where they compared notes and wrote out a great deal of their copy. But there was not room for them all here, and it was a common thing in Rennes to see reporters and artists sitting in the streets busy with their pen or had at work in cafes, beer-gardens, hotel bedrooms, and tobacconists' shops, where they patronized the "Dreyfus cigarette," the papers of which contain a 350 words summary of the "affaire" from the beginning.

It is difficult, and, indeed, impossible to say how much matter has been telegraphed from the Paris and Rennes in connection with the trial for the reason that much of the copy has been sent by mail, many reporters being able to send off their special descriptions so as to reach London the same day. But it is certainly within the mark to say that no other case has ever so bewildered the telegraph authorities.

There are in the world something like 36,000 newspapers, and every one, it is safe to say, has followed the trial. There must have been at the very least 50,000 columns of Dreyfus matter in the papers of the United Kingdom during the past month. In Europe the trial has been reported into quite 19,000 newspapers—8,000 in Germany and 4,000 in France—and 15,000 papers in America have followed every day of the proceeding.

Assuming that every news paper in the world has had only one column for every day of the trial—a by no means exaggerated assumption—there have been something like a million columns of Dreyfus matter printed in the month covered by the trial which means quite eight thousand million letters. A million letters in ordinary type—we will put aside the fact that much of this trial has been reported in extraordinary type—would reach a mile, so that the reports of the Dreyfus trial would make a line of type 8,000 miles long which would stretch nearly twice across the United States.

That, too, takes no account of the circulation of the papers—it deals merely with the type. To take the papers, some of them with circulations of half a million, and to reckon how many times they would reach to the sun and back, would be bewildering a task even for a Tit-Bits statistician.

But taking the actual type which must have been set up, we find that it would make a book three thousand times as big as the Bible, or, to put in another way, all the new books published in the United Kingdom in a year do not require so much type as has been used in the reports of this trial!

What a fortune must have been spent in sending these reports from Rennes! At a half-penny a word the daily cost of telegrams between Rennes and Paris would be £950, or nearly £30,000 in all and it is estimated that quite £12,500 has been spent in "special" wires abroad—that is, in special descriptions of the proceedings and not the actual reporting. All telegraphic matter from Rennes is sent at the rate of 2d. a word.

The actual reports supplied by the agencies cost, taking the cheapest, a guinea a column, and it is quite within the mark to reckon that the two hundred daily papers in the United Kingdom have spent on an average two guineas a day in this way. That means another £12,600.

The fares and hotel expenses of the journalists at Rennes cannot have been less than £3,000 and when one thinks of the array of legal talent, the enormous number of witnesses, and the thousand and one other way in which money has been spent over the Dreyfus trial, it will be seen that the Dreyfus bill cannot be less than six figures. The syndicate and the 35,000,000 francs theory has been exploded, but even that huge figure can hardly be too high for us when reckoning up the cost of the Dreyfus trial. Something like a million sterling must have been spent on this case since Alfred Dreyfus was stripped of his uniform in the first days of 1895.

A MALAY ROMEO.

In the Colombo Police Court Mrs. Johnson of Slave Island, prosecuted a Malay lad, scarcely out of his teens, and named Hossen Madar Alliar, with having kidnapped her daughter, Rosa Johnson, who was under sixteen years of age, on the night of the 26th ultimo. The girl is a daughter of the late Mr. Johnson, Driver of the Ceylon Government Railway. The accused was asked if he had anything to say in answer to the charge, whereupon he said: "She consented to come, so I took her away. She had written letters to me and asked me to take her away. I have the letters with me." Accused then produced the letters and handed them to the Magistrate. In reply to a question from the Court, the accused said he was willing to marry the girl. The Magistrate said he would file the letters, as they might be useful for the defence. The girl on being questioned by the Court signified her willingness to be married to the accused. Mr. J. E. R. Pereira, Proctor, who appeared for the prosecution, said that the girl was born in November, 1883. The Magistrate remarked that before he could proceed further he would require the birth certificate of the girl, and accordingly postponed the case for Saturday. The girl's mother had a buggy car waiting outside, and thither she dragged her daughter. There was a sensation as the girl continued crying out, "Madar, come and take me away," and as she was struck by some others in the cart, Alliar rushed into the Court and complained to Mr. Murty that the girl was unnecessarily beaten. Mr. Murty advised him to leave the girl alone, and said she must go with her mother, as there would then be a chance of his marrying her, and warned him that he would be punished if he committed any breach of the peace.

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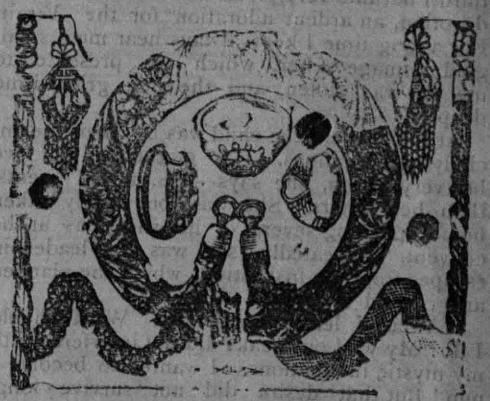


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